THE Valley INDEPENDENT
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Yanks win, 3-1
New York beat Philadelphia on Thursday night, tying the World Series. **1B**

Vaccines delayed?
State officials are worried about the possible shortage of swine flu vaccines. **11A**

Debbie Hardy's ex jail-bound

Paul Ucman, 45, will spend at least 364 days behind bars for stealing $5 million worth of his former wife's jewelry.

By RICH CHOLODOFSKY
For The Valley Independent
rcholodofsky@tribweb.com

Sitting shoulder-to-shoulder in a Westmoreland County courtroom with her ex-husband, billionaire businessman Joe Hardy, Debra Hardy watched as her estranged husband was ordered to jail for stealing $5 million worth of her jewelry.

Paul K. Ucman, 45, was sentenced Thursday to serve at least 364 days in jail. He could spend nearly two years behind bars for taking a one-of-a-kind Louis Vuitton handbag filled with his estranged wife's jewels from a bedroom vault in her Rostraver mansion.

The home at 1 Debbie Lane, built by 84 Lumber magnate Joe Hardy, was the scene of the jewel heist in which authorities contend a $355,000 engagement ring, diamond necklaces and about 500 other expensive pieces were taken by Ucman on Sept. 28, 2007.

Westmoreland County Judge Richard E. McCormick Jr. sentenced Ucman to a jail term of one year less a day to two years less a day, a slightly more lenient sentence that the penalty recommended by county prosecutors.

"I've made it a county sentence because frankly, this wasn't just a theft, and it wasn't just a domestic situation," McCormick said. "Mr. Ucman took those items for the purpose of forcing the return of certain property disputed in this relationship. You wanted to use it as leverage."

Ucman will be eligible for work release and must undergo alcohol and anger management treatment. He was ordered to begin his jail sentence Nov. 9.

After a one-day, nonjury trial in August, McCormick convicted Ucman of a felony theft charge and a related misdemeanor offense of receiving stolen property.

Police said Ucman entered his estranged wife's bedroom, smeared the lens of a video surveillance camera then punched in the code of the vault safe to access the jewelry. About a week later, the jewelry was

(See UCMAN, Page 2A)

INSIDE TODAY

Buchanan resigning
Mary Beth Buchanan, the Roscoe native who has served as the chief federal prosecutor for western Pennsylvania since 2001, announced Thursday that she plans to leave the post on Nov. 16. **3A**

State to reassess
County leaders across Pennsylvania have been unwilling to conduct politically unpopular property reassessments, so the state soon might have to step in and force them to do so, a top state House Republican said Thursday. **3A**

SPORTS

Malkin out
NHL scoring champion Evgeni Malkin will be lost to the Penguins for two to three weeks because of a strained right shoulder. The Russian star will miss seven games if he is out two weeks and 10 games if he is out three. **1B**

DEATHS

■ Henry Edsel Bateman, 79, of Whitsett
■ Angelo L. Demis, 71, of Donora
■ Pearl Battistone Gibson, 89, of Bentleyville
■ Elizabeth Zerone, 57, of Monessen

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WEATHER

Tonight Cloudy 55°
Tomorrow Rain 62°

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Two sections, 20 Pages

TOMORROW

Read all about tonight's high school football action Saturday in our sports section.

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House Dems introduce plan for health care

Vote on landmark legislation could come as early as next week.

By DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Cheered by President Barack Obama, House Democrats rolled out landmark legislation Thursday to extend health care to tens of millions who lack coverage, impose sweeping new restrictions on the insurance industry and create a government-run option to compete with private insurers.

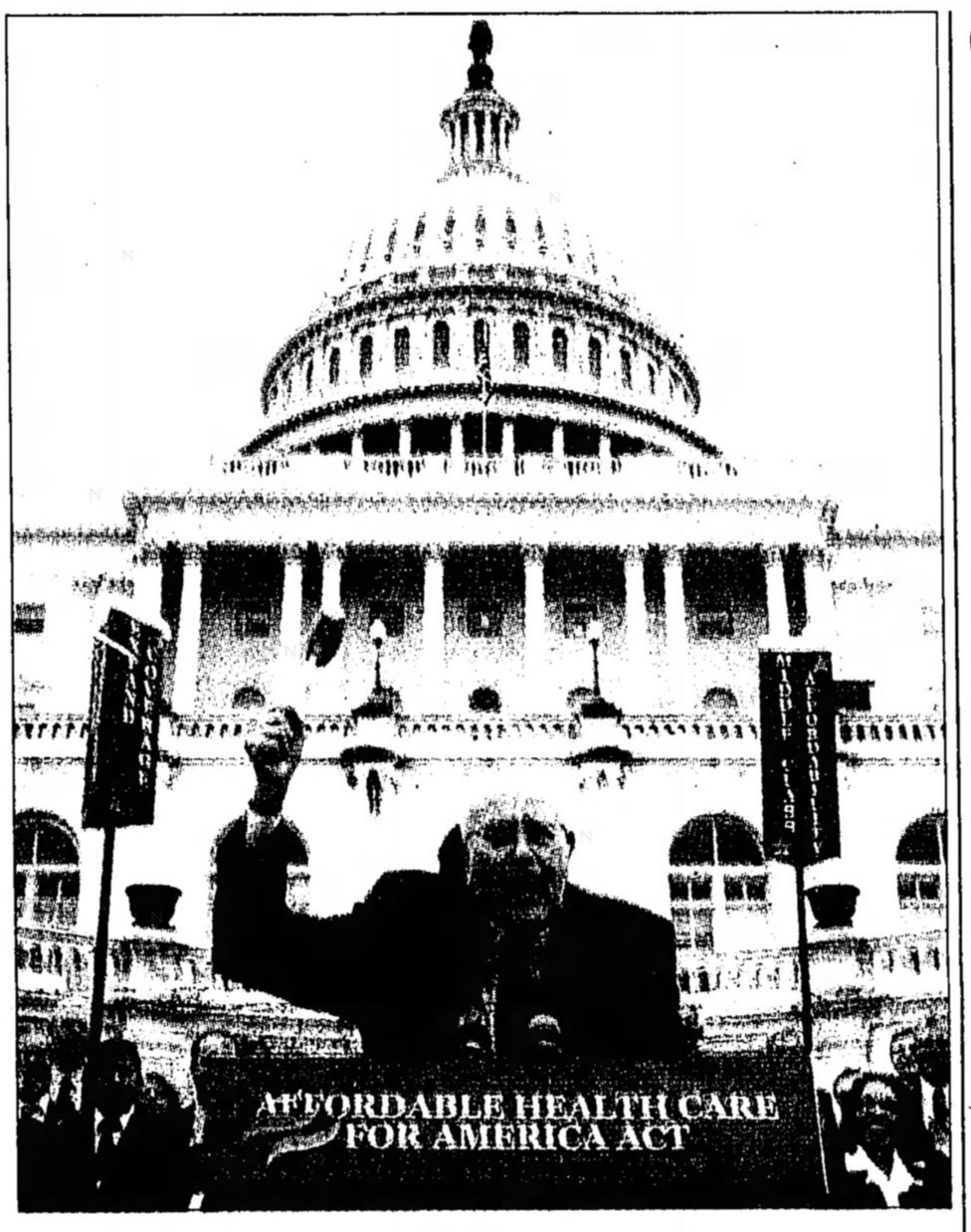
But even as party leaders pointed toward a vote next week, there were fresh questions that went to the heart of their ambitious drive to remake the nation's health care system.

Congressional budget experts predicted the controversial government insurance option would probably cost consumers somewhat more than private coverage. At the same time, rank-and-file conservative Democrats sought additional information about the bill's overall impact on federal health care spending.

There was no official estimate on the total cost of the legislation, which ran to 1,990 pages. The Congressional Budget Office said the cost of additional coverage alone was slightly more than $1 trillion over a decade. But that omitted other items, including billions for disease prevention programs.

Yet another $230 billion or more in higher fees for doctors treating Medicare patients, included in an earlier version of the bill, was stripped out and will be voted on separately.

The measure "covers 96 percent of all Americans, and it puts affordable coverage in reach for millions of uninsured and underinsured families, lowering health care costs for all of us," boasted Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., at a ceremony attended by dozens of Democratic lawmakers. She spoke on the steps of the Capitol, not far from where Obama issued his inaugural summons for Congress to act more than nine months ago.



Associated Press

Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., holds a gavel used when Medicare legislation was passed, as he speaks about health care on Capitol Hill in Washington on Thursday.

Pelosi said the legislation would reduce federal deficits over the next decade by $104 billion, and congressional budget experts said it would probably reduce them even further over the following 10 years.

While saying they expected a vote next week, Democratic leaders were careful not to claim they had yet rounded up enough votes to pass the legislation. Still, the day's events capped months of struggle and marked a major advance in their drive — and Obama's — to accomplish an overhaul of the health care system that has eluded presidents for a half-century.

Across the Capitol, the Democratic-controlled Senate is expected to begin debate within two weeks on a bill crafted by Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. It, too, envisions a government-run insurance option, although states could opt out, unlike in the bill the House will vote on. That portion of the Senate version appears likely to be weakened even further, as moderates press for a standby

(See HEALTH CARE, Page 2A)

Grand jury investigating Pa. turnpike commission

Panel looking into reports about patronage and possible "pay-to-play" contracts.

By BRAD BUMSTED
For The Valley Independent
bbumsted@tribweb.com

HARRISBURG — A statewide grand jury based in Pittsburgh is investigating patronage and possible "pay-to-play" contracts at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

The involvement of Attorney General Tom Corbett's office surfaced Thursday after reports that the FBI has been investigating matters at the agency.

Bill Capone, a turnpike spokesman, said the turnpike asked the FBI to investigate work on widening the toll highway near Valley Forge after an internal Inspector General's report found problems.

"It's an investigation we launched internally ourselves," Capone said. "It's an ongoing investigation."

Asked about the separate statewide grand jury investigation by Corbett, Capone said: "I have heard that unofficially. Officially, I have not been made aware of it."

Officials say the state investigation is looking at allegations of campaign contributions given by contractors or solicited from them.

The investigations by both agencies are "long overdue," said former Allegheny County Chief Executive Jim Roddey. "The Turnpike Commission is the last bastion of patronage and pay-to-play politics — maybe not the last, but the last of the big ones. It's a classic example of government at its worst."

In January 2005, the *Tribune-Review*, a sister publication of

(See GRAND JURY, Page 2A)

Springer case defendant gets new sentence

Defense lawyer vows to appeal latest sentence given Justin Welch, who conspired to murder and rob a Carroll Township couple.

By CHRIS BUCKLEY
Staff Writer
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WASHINGTON, Pa. – For the second time this week, a co-conspirator charged in the robbery and murder of a Carroll Township couple was in court to receive his sentence.

But the two concurrent 20- to 40-year prison term Justin Welch received Thursday is "illegal," according to his attorney, Joe Francis, who vowed to appeal the sentence to the state Superior Court.

Washington County Judge Debbie O'Dell Seneca handed that sentence to Welch, 21, of 911 Crest Ave., Apt. 3, Charleroi, days after she had sentenced him to two consecutive 10- to 20-year prison terms.

The convicted shooter, Gerald Szakal, 27, of Webster, was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison without parole plus 20 to 40 years in prison for robbing and fatally shooting retired Carroll Township police Chief Howard Springer, and his wife, retired teacher Nancy Springer, March 4, 2008, in their home at 1241 Highland Road.

The prosecution contended that Szakal stole jewelry and rare coins from his mother's Rostraver Township house and sold them to the Springers, who operated a precious metals business out of their home. The prosecution contended Szakal murdered them because their business logs could have proved he committed the thefts.

O'Dell Seneca said she re-read the case law after Assistant District Attorney Josh Carroll raised concerns about the original sentence given to Welch, saying it "might not be proper."

Carroll and Assistant District Attorney Craig McKay declined to comment after the hearing.

O'Dell Seneca noted that there were two victims in the crime.

But speaking after Thursday's court proceeding, Francis said the sentence was "still illegal."

Francis said a defendant can only be sentenced on one charge of conspiracy, despite the number of victims.

Welch had agreed to plead guilty to two counts of conspiracy to commit homicide in exchange for his testimony against Szakal.

Francis also questioned the length of the jail term, saying he had expected a sentence of 10-to-20 years. Francis said he believed the judge ignored "mitigating circumstances," including the fact that his client willingly cooperated with authorities from the beginning.

The lawyer noted that Welch had agreed to wear a wire and meet with Szakal to help the police investigation, but Szakal surrendered to police before that could happen.

Francis also disagreed with the judge's assessment that his client was a catalyst in the crime.

"Whether he (Welch) provided drugs or the gun, Jerry was going to do this crime either way," Francis said.

Francis said without Welch's testimony, the prosecution would have had trouble getting a conviction against Szakal.

"He was the only one who showed remorse throughout this," Francis said with reference to his client.

"The other defendants showed no remorse. Mr. Welch took full responsibility for his actions.

"His testimony was not evasive. It was the most sincere."

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LEGAL NOTICE OF CANVASS

The Washington County Board of Elections will begin the Canvass of Returns of the November 3, 2009, General Election on Friday, November 6, 2009 at 9:00 A.M., Courthouse Square, 100 West Beau Street, Room 207, Washington, Pennsylvania, 15301.

Larry Maggi, Chairperson

J. Bracken Burns, Jr., Member

Diana L. Irey, Member

Washington County Board of Elections

ATTEST: Mary E. Helicke
Mary Helicke, Chief Clerk

VALLEY PEOPLE

Yesteryear

The year is uncertain, but this photo of the staff at H&B Chevrolet-Cadillac in Charleroi is believed to be from the early 1950s. Harold Humphries, founder and longtime owner of the automobile dealership, is shown in the middle of the front row.

If you have a good oldtime photograph, send it to us at Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa., 15062.

Weather

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
High 62 Low 42	High 51 Low 36	High 55 Low 37	High 52 Low 37	High 52 Low 37

Ucman (FROM PAGE ONE)

returned to Debra Hardy by Frank DeRosa, the father of Ucman's first wife and current girlfriend.

DeRosa testified at trial that he did not know who gave him the jewels to return to Debra Hardy.

In court yesterday, DeRosa pleaded with McCormick to sentence Ucman to probation rather than jail.

DeRosa's brother, Tom DeRosa, chairman of the Forward Township board of supervisors, asked that Ucman remain free and said he is vital employee who helped to repair a local bridge.

Ucman told the judge yesterday that he was sorry for the trouble he caused the court, but he did not apologize for the thefts.

Defense attorney James Jeffries said Ucman maintains his innocence.

"We believe there was this third stranger who delivered the jewels to Mr. DeRosa and told him to give them back to Mrs. Hardy. We don't know who that third person is," Jeffries said.

Only the Louis Vuitton handbag was not returned. A special hearing will be conducted in about a month to set the restitution Ucman will owe Debra Hardy for that missing bag.

The two are disputing the value of the bag.

Hardy and Ucman are still married. The divorce is pending, according to Jeffries.

As she left the courtroom with her first husband, Hardy said she was relieved the case against Ucman is over.

"We're very pleased," she said.

Grand jury (FROM PAGE ONE)

The Valley Independent, published articles on patronage, nepotism and excessive spending at the Turnpike Commission, including the payment of $1.2 million in fees to a Philadelphia law firm with which former Sen. Vincent Fumo, D-Philadelphia, was affiliated.

Unrelated to those payments, Fumo was convicted of 137 corruption charges in March and sentenced to 55 months in prison.

A key power broker at the Turnpike, Fumo arranged for his former roommate, Michael Palermo, to receive $120,000 a year from the turnpike in a consulting job, from which there were no reports, the *Trib* reported.

Palermo last week pleaded guilty of conspiring with Fumo to defraud the Senate of $287,000 for a no-show Senate job from 2004 to 2008.

Former Turnpike Commission Chairman Mitchell Rubin, Fumo's friend, racked up $72,000 in agency expenses over five years, including meals at five-star restaurants, the *Trib* reported.

Rubin, who was implicated during Fumo's trial for allegedly collecting $150,000 in a no-work Senate job, was fired by Gov. Ed Rendell after Fumo's trial.

Rubin received a "target letter" that said he could be prosecuted.

Turnpike officials were not available to respond to the ongoing investigations, spokesman Carl DeFebo said.

A former Turnpike Commission official testified before the state grand jury in Pittsburgh about patronage practices and favoritism in union grievances for politically connected hires.

It's not necessarily illegal to hire someone who is politically connected.

Earlier this year, Peggy Denham, who works for the state as a municipal auditor, said she testified that Rep. Tony DeLuca, D-Penn Hills, helped his daughter Deborah Brinker get a job with the Turnpike Commission, and arranged jobs for other relatives with public agencies.

DeLuca told the *Trib* he had "nothing whatsoever" to do with getting them hired.

According to Denham, DeLuca arranged for Brinker to work for the turnpike by persuading Penn Hills council to hire Bonnie Brimmeier as its solicitor. She is the sister of Joe Brimmeier, the commission's executive director. Joe Brimmeier responded by calling Denham's testimony "total bull" and denied any "quid pro quo."

Brimmeier has said he had no qualms about hiring his relatives or friends at the turnpike when they are qualified.

Health care (FROM PAGE ONE)

system that would not go into effect until it was clear individual states were experiencing a lack of competition among private companies.

Obama called the House legislation "another critical milestone in the effort to reform our health care system."

Republican reaction was as swift as it was negative. "It will raise the cost of Americans' health insurance premiums; it will kill jobs with tax hikes and new mandates, and it will cut seniors' Medicare benefits," said the party's leader in the House, Rep. John Boehner of Ohio. He carried a copy of the 1,990-page measure into a news conference to underscore his claim it represented a government takeover of the health care system.

Republicans have already signaled their determination to make the health care debate a key issue in next year's congressional elections, when all 435 House seats will be on the ballot.

But their ability to block passage in the current House is nonexistent as long as Pelosi and her leadership can forge a consensus among the Democratic rank and file. The party holds 256 seats in the House, where 218 makes a majority.

Broad in scope, the House Democrats' bill attempts to build on the current system of employer-provided health care. It would require big companies to cover their employees and include federal subsidies to help small companies provide insurance for theirs, as well. Most individuals would be required to carry insurance, and much of the money in the legislation is dedicated to subsidies for those at lower incomes to help them afford coverage.

For those at even lower incomes, the bill provides for an expansion of Medicaid, the state-federal health program for the poor. Adults up to 150 percent of the poverty level — individuals making up to $16,245 and a family of four up to $33,075 — would be covered, a provision estimated to add 15 million to Medicaid.

One of the bill's major features is a new national insurance market, in which private companies could sell policies that meet federally mandated benefit levels, the government would offer competing coverage and consumers could shop for the policy that best met their needs.

In a bow to moderates, Democrats decided doctors, hospitals and other providers would be allowed to negotiate rates with the Health and Human Services Department for services provided in the government insurance option.

Liberals had favored a system in which fees would be dictated by the government, an approach that would have been less costly than what was settled on, and also would have moved closer to a purely government-run health care system than some Democrats favor.

The Congressional Budget Office said the result would be fees comparable to those doctors receive from private insurers. But for consumers, government-backed plans "would typically have premiums that are somewhat higher than the average premiums for private plans" sold in competition. As a result, it said enrollment would be only about 6 million.

Conservative Democrats known as Blue Dogs reacted to the overall CBO analysis by asking whether the bill would reduce the long-term rate of growth in federal spending.

They noted the agency had said last summer that an earlier version would fail to do so, and they said they wanted updated answers "in order to make an informed decision."

Approach to mental care is changing

Westmoreland to start treating people within the community rather than in hospitals.

By RICHARD GAZARIK
For The Valley Independent
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In the future, mental health services in Westmoreland County will be geared to treating people within the community rather than in hospitals.

But the question remains as to how the county will pay for those services in a cash-strapped economy and tight state budget.

Kathy Wohlgemuth, director of the Westmoreland County MH/MR program, told a group of mental health workers and agency directors Thursday that providers need to find more cost-effective ways to treat the mentally ill because government funding has not kept pace with the costs.

The program about the future of mental health services in the county was held at the Four Points Sheraton and featured Estelle B. Richman, state secretary of Public Welfare.

It was sponsored by Mental Health America of Westmoreland County.

Illustrating how costs can be reduced, Wohlgemuth said clients will be housed in apartments rather than in group homes because rentals cost less. There are plans to expand outpatient clinics to the county's 17 school districts.

How the county will pay for more community-based services is an issue, said Donald Goughler, president of Family Services of Western Pennsylvania.

Goughler said services are more readily available, but "I'm worried about the future of mental health service delivery."

He said payments do not cover treatment costs, and that is creating stress on the system. Psychiatric services are reimbursed for only three-fourths of the actual costs, he noted.

In the long run, Goughler said, outpatient services may not be able to continue with current funding levels.

"That funding mindset does not meet needs," he said.

"The financial system has fallen too far over the past decade."

Richman said Westmoreland is a "model county, a solid system," but care providers no longer can accept less than "concrete outcomes. Now is the time to review programs and ask, 'Are we getting our money's worth?' "

Edna McCutcheon, CEO of Torrance State Hospital in Derry Township, said her vision of mental health services in the future is that every mentally ill person gets the care they need while living in the community.

She said the number of patients at Torrance, a public psychiatric hospital, has been decreasing as patients are discharged for care in community-based treatment programs.

"No one is a lifer," McCutcheon said. "Everyone has a life."

Among the new programs implemented at Torrance through Mental Health America of Westmoreland County is peer mentoring.

John Kung, who has a mental illness, helps patients at Torrance to prepare for life outside the hospital.

James Knox/For The Valley Independent

Mary Beth Buchanan, the Roscoe native who has served as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania for the past 8 years, announced Thursday that she plans to leave the post Nov. 16.

Buchanan planning to resign as U.S. Attorney on Nov. 16

Roscoe native has been on the job for the past 8 years.

By TONY LaRUSSA
For The Valley Independent
tlarussa@tribweb.com

Mary Beth Buchanan says her eight years as the chief federal prosecutor for Western Pennsylvania have been marked by successful efforts battling crimes, including the sexual abuse of children, drug and gun violence and public corruption.

Buchanan, 46, announced Thursday that she plans to leave the post on Nov. 16.

"It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve the people of Western Pennsylvania and this great nation," said Buchanan, a Roscoe native who was appointed by President George W. Bush in September 2001 after serving as an assistant U.S. attorney for 13 years.

"After more than eight years in the best job anyone could ever have, I am looking forward to the next chapter in my professional career," Buchanan said in a statement.

Her spokeswoman, Margaret Philbin, said Buchanan was on vacation and unavailable to comment further on her plans.

Larry Smar, a spokesman for U.S. Sen. Robert P. Casey Jr., said the process of naming a replacement for Buchanan "has been under way" but declined to comment on potential candidates until a formal announcement has been made.

In a written statement, U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter said Buchanan's decision to step down "is the right one."

"Since early summer, Senator Casey and I have been working to find a new United States attorney for the Western District," Specter wrote.

"It is my hope that the White House will announce a nominee in the near future so that we can fill the important position."

Eighteen of the U.S. attorneys appointed by President Obama have taken office, and another dozen nominees are awaiting Senate confirmation, according to the Justice Department.

Some of the major cases prosecuted under Buchanan include:

■ Obtaining a guilty plea from Scott Tyree, who drove a 13-year-old Crafton Heights girl with whom he had been communicating on the Internet back to his home in Virginia, where he tortured and sexually assaulted her.

■ The public corruption investigation of the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office that resulted in the conviction of former sheriff Pete DeFazio and a number of his top deputies as well as a magisterial district judge.

■ Convictions for fraudulent billing and the theft of materials in connection with the reconstruction of the Pentagon after 9/11.

■ The conviction of computer hacker Max Ray Butler, who was found with 1.8 million stolen credit card account numbers on his computer.

■ The conviction of Terrence Larnell Cole, who is serving life in prison for importing 2,000 to 3,000 kilograms of cocaine into the area between 1991 and 2003.

Buchanan's prosecution of comedian Tommy Chong's drug paraphernalia business gained national attention.

While Chong's business was based in California, she brought the case to Pennsylvania as a result of a local "head shop" bust.

Buchanan, however, failed to win her case against former Allegheny County coroner Cyril H. Wecht.

The government dropped federal criminal charges against Wecht more than three years after accusing him of cheating taxpayers and trading unclaimed bodies from the morgue he ran.

Buchanan noted that prosecutions under her leadership have increased from 280 in 2001 to 884 this year, and her implementation of Project Safe Childhood led to the successful prosecution of more than 250 sex offenders.

State eyes takeover of reassessments

"This is one of the most difficult issues there is," said Rep. Stan Saylor, R-York.

By MIKE WERESCHAGIN
For The Valley Independent
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County leaders across Pennsylvania have been unwilling to conduct politically unpopular property reassessments, so the state soon might have to step in and force them to do so, a top state House Republican said Thursday.

Spurred by Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato's four-year battle to block a local reassessment and a state Supreme Court order saying the county's tax system is unconstitutionally inaccurate, legislators are coming around to the idea that something must be done to fix Pennsylvania's broken assessment system, said state Rep. Mike Turzai, R-Bradford Woods.

The time to do it would be after next year's election, when the state will have a new governor, Turzai said during a Republican Policy Committee hearing in Richland.

"A new governor has the opportunity to come in and be bold, and we need to be bold with them," Turzai said.

At stake is the state constitutional requirement of equal taxation, the political survival of dozens of county leaders and complicated reassessment processes costing tens of millions of dollars that many cash-strapped governments can't spare.

"This is one of the most difficult issues there is," said Rep. Stan Saylor, R-York. Reassessments are needed because they're used to determine each homeowner's share of school, municipal and county budgets.

If they're inaccurate — in Allegheny County's case, because neighborhood home values have fluctuated so much since the last reassessment in 2002 — some homeowners pay too much while others pay too little.

"Reassessing is about treating taxpayers fairly," Saylor said.

Onorato has said he will not conduct a reassessment until surrounding counties, some of which haven't reassessed in 40 years, have to reassess as well.

Pennsylvania is the only state to place no reassessment requirements on counties, said Eric Montari, senior policy analyst at the Allegheny Institute for Public Policy, a Castle Shannon policy group. Montari was among four experts who testified to the panel about the issue.

For decades, the state enabled county leaders to ignore the inequalities of old assessments. The base-year system, which Allegheny County adopted, allows counties to assess properties on old values. It was created in the early 1980s when it became apparent many counties were refusing to reassess, Montari said.

The state's response was, "We're going to keep permitting you to not do it," by creating the base year, Montari said.

"We support mandatory reassessment" with a couple of caveats, said Doug Hill, executive director of the County Commissioners Association. The first is, counties need the tools — manpower and computers — to conduct a reassessment. Second, they need help paying for it.

That second one is a tough sell among legislators, fresh off a 101-day budget stalemate that resulted in billions of dollars in cuts and caused their approval rating to plunge.

"I really don't sense that in Harrisburg we're looking for new ways to spend money," said Rep. John Evans, R-Crawford County. "This may be a long wait if they're waiting for state help."

One option the lawmakers mentioned was forcing school districts and municipalities to help pay for reassessments.

Allegheny County officials have said a full reassessment as ordered by the state Supreme Court could cost as much as $30 million.

Judge dismisses UPMC, Highmark anti-trust suit

By The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A federal judge has dismissed an antitrust lawsuit against the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and insurer Highmark Inc.

West Penn Allegheny Health System sued the hospital system and insurer in April, claiming UPMC refused to contract with other health insurance companies at reasonable rates.

In return, the complaint claimed that Highmark pays inflated reimbursements to UPMC's facilities and less to others, putting them at an economic disadvantage.

UPMC and Highmark denied the allegations.

U.S. District Judge Arthur Schwab granted UPMC's request to dismiss the lawsuit on Thursday, ruling that the charges in the complaint were not justified.

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ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

As prior candidates for commissioner in ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP we endorse ANDY TEMOSHENKA for the position of ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONER. Respectfully we ask that our friends, relations, neighbors and the residents of ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP, who voted for us, give ANDY TEMOSHENKA your support and vote for him on November 3, 2009.

We feel that Andy is the best candidate for the position and that he will serve the township with the professionalism and experience essential to keep ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP a proud and prosperous community.

Each of us has had the opportunity to campaign with Andy and we share his vision for ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP. He has the leadership to take our township even further and he will control government spending. Andy led the Democratic ticket in the May primary election and we are asking that you please join us in voting on November 3, 2009 for ANDY TEMOSHENKA for ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP COMMISSIONER.

Thank you for your support.

MIKE STANGROOM, Prior candidate for Rostraver Township Commissioner
KIM STEADMAN, Prior candidate for Rostraver Township Commissioner
WILLIAM MELILLI, Prior Republican Rostraver Township Commissioner
DON YODER, Prior Democratic Rostraver Township Commissioner

Paid for by Friends of the Candidate

RECORDS

POLICE LOG

State police, Belle Vernon

■ Anthony Wade Sarsfield, 34, of Ruffsdale, was charged with terroristic threats 12:01, a.m. Oct. 19 as a result of an incident that took place at a residence along Malone Road, South Huntingdon Township, police said. Charges were filed at the office of Magisterial District Judge Bruce King of Scottdale.

■ Sean Teets, of Perryopolis, reported that someone stole numerous items from his vehicle while it was parked along Diamond Street, Perry Township, during the hours of 10 p.m. Oct. 21 and 5 p.m. Oct. 22.

Southwest Regional

■ Meghan Ryan, of Chalk Hill, reported her Coach purse was stolen sometime around 10:45 p.m. Monday from a yard at 166 Back St., Coal Center. The purse is two-tone brown leather with a leather strap and golden clasps. Anyone with information is asked to call police at (724) 929-8484.

State police, Greensburg

■ Scott Hredock, 42, of Herminie, reported that sometime on Monday, someone entered his vehicle and removed various items while it was parked at 702 Sewickley Ave., Sewickley Township.

Monongahela

■ Joseph A. Necciai Jr., 48, of 109 Donora Road, Monongahela, was charged with DUI 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, after his vehicle went over a hillside on Grandview Avenue in the city, police reported.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Halloween event planned

A Halloween Ball, sponsored by the Mon Valley NAACP, will be held 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday at the Monessen Civic Center. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling (724) 684-8545. Prizes will be awarded. Food will be available. The ball is for teens through the 12th grade.

DEATH NOTICES

BATEMAN — Henry Edsel Bateman, 79, of Whitsett, on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Blair-Lowther Funeral Home Inc., Perryopolis.*

DEMIS — Angelo L. Demis, 71, of Donora, on Wednesday, Oct. 28. James A. Rabe Funeral Home Inc., Donora.*

GIBSON — Pearl (Battistone) Gibson, 89, of Bentleyville, on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Thompson-Marodi Funeral Home Inc., Bentleyville.

VAGLI — Raymond Vagli, 87, of Monroeville, formerly of Monessen, on Thursday, Oct. 29. Dalfonso-Billick Funeral Home Inc., Monessen.*

ZERONE — Elizabeth Zerone, of Monessen, on Friday, Oct. 30. Robert A. Billick Funeral Home Inc., Monessen.*

*** See death notice**

Henry Edsel Bateman
Whitsett

Henry Edsel Bateman, 79, of Whitsett, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009. He was born May 5, 1930, in Smithton, the son of the late Oliver T. and Maud I. Dorn Bateman. Henry was a member of the Perryopolis Moose, Hutchinson Sportsman's Club of Hutchinson, and Amvets General Marshall Post 103 of Hopwood. Henry is survived by two sons and a daughter, Bruce W. Bateman and wife Isabelle of Grindstone, Michael Bateman, and Deborah Strother and husband Glenn, both of Perryopolis; seven grandchildren, Michelle, Dawn, Lynnanne, B.J., Jessica, Glenn Jr., Holly; seven great-grandchildren; two sisters, Marjorie Bateman Miket of White Hall, and Josephine Bateman Nagy of Monessen. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Donna Burress Bateman; three brothers, George Oliver Bateman, Samuel William Bateman and Oliver Thomas Bateman; five sisters, Mildred Bateman Kingan, Stefhana Bateman Moore, Maude Bateman Farquar, Betty Bateman Mensch, and Martha Bateman Swearer. Friends will be received in the BLAIR-LOWTHER FUNERAL HOME INC., 305 Rear Independence St., Perryopolis, on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., the hour of service. Mike Vindivich will officiate. Interment will be private.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Raymond Vagli
Monroeville
Formerly of Monessen

Raymond Vagli, 87, of Monroeville, formerly of Monessen, died Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009, in Forbes Regional Hospital, Monroeville. He was born in Monessen on May 15, 1922, the son of the late Lawrence and Vertighe (Corti) Vagli. Raymond grew up in Monessen, and attended the DePaul Institute for the Deaf. He had been employed by Union Cleaners in Monessen as a delivery driver, and began working for U.S. Steel Research Lab in Monroeville, retiring with 20 years of service in the maintenance department. Ray has been a resident of Monroeville for the past 46 years. He was a member of North American Martyrs Roman Catholic Church in Monroeville, a 37-year member of the Pittsburgh Association of the Deaf, a 50-year member of the Pennsylvania Society for the Advancement of the Deaf, and a 25-year member of the Pennsylvania Deaf Senior Citizens. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mildred (Popovich) Vagli; his sister, Rosemary Hans of Monessen; a sister-in-law, Lillian Vagli of McLean, Va.; a niece and four nephews, Robert Vagley and wife Holly of McLean, Va., Dr. Richard Vagley of Pittsburgh, William Hans and wife Kim of Monessen, Robert Hans of Monessen, Diane Yancoskie of Monessen; and by numerous great-nieces and great-nephews. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Ida Vagli; and by two brothers, Bruno and William Vagli. Friends will be received on Friday, Oct. 30, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the DALFONSO-BILLICK FUNERAL HOME INC. AND CREMATION SERVICES, 441 Reed Ave., Monessen, (724-684-8750). Services will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. in the funeral home, with Father David J. Nazimek officiating. Interment will follow in Grandview Cemetery, Monessen. Condolences accepted for the family at www.dalfonso-billick.com.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Angelo L. Demis
Donora

Angelo L. Demis, 71, of Donora, died suddenly on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009, at UPMC Presbyterian. Mr. Demis was born in Glassport on March 7, 1938, a son of the late Louis and Josephine Telaga Demis. He was the owner/operator of Chubs Pub in Donora for over 25 years. Ang retired from the U.S. Army as a sergeant major, and he also served in the Special Forces Green Beret. He was a graduate of Glassport High School, a sponsor of the NRA, a member of St Dominic's Social Club, a member of East Monongahela Sportsmen's Club, and a member of EE Jobes Post 212 American Legion, Donora. Mr. Demis was preceded in death by two sons, Richard and Robert. Surviving is his stepson, Stephen (Victoria) Walko of Donora; two nephews, Joe and David Demis, both of Las Vegas, Nev.; and a special friend, LuAnn Hardesty of Donora. Friends will be received on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the JAMES A. RABE FUNERAL HOME INC., 701 Thompson Ave., Donora, where a blessing service will be held on Monday at 10 a.m., with the Rev. Pierre M. Falkenhan officiating. Entombment with full military honors will follow at Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora. Family and friends may view the obituary and offer online condolences at www.rabefuneral-home.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Elizabeth Zerone
Monessen

Elizabeth Zerone, 57, of Monessen, died on Friday, Oct. 30, 2009, in the Center for Compassionate Care, Mt. Lebanon. A complete obituary and funeral service information will be announced in Saturday's edition.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Gym shooter 'didn't come out of the blue'

Denver woman said she was stalked by George Sodini a few years ago.

By ROBIN ACTON
For The Valley Independent
racton@tribweb.com

Pamela Quillin

In 2003, Pamela Quillin slept with her gun for weeks, afraid the man stalking her would break into her home in the middle of the night.

She suspected that George Sodini suffered from mental illness based on his eccentric personality, social behavior and threats that mentioned guns. Still, she never imagined the violence lurking within the man she met at church in 1999.

Nearly three months ago, Quillin's sleepless nights returned when she learned Sodini, 48, peppered the LA Fitness center in Collier with bullets, killing three women and wounding nine others in an aerobics class before committing suicide.

"I don't know why it was them, and not me," said Quillin, 49, who acknowledges she suffers from survivor's guilt. "I'm alone; I'm not married, and I don't have children. I don't know how I could not feel it."

Today, Quillin, a former Pittsburgh resident who lives in Denver, hopes that talking about her experiences with Sodini will help others recognize warning signs that could prevent a similar tragedy.

"I want his victims and the survivors of those who died to know that George Sodini didn't come out of the blue," she said.

Quillin, an electrical engineer, said she met Sodini at the Tetelestai Church in Oakmont. Early on, she said, Sodini expressed interest in her, but she discouraged his advances because she was dating someone.

At first, Sodini seemed "friendly and harmless," she said. Soon, she saw a "dark, brooding side" to the man who complained of loneliness, of rejection from women and of "feeling like a zombie" but refused to get help.

Still, they saw each other at church functions, including a bike trip. They did not date, but carpooled to social events, she said.

Sodini, a systems analyst at the Downtown law firm K&L Gates, "fit into social groups good enough, despite being socially awkward," Quillin recalled. After the shootings, church deacon Jack Rickard, 80, of Indiana told reporters that Sodini "was just one of the guys."

Indeed, Quillin said she did not begin to worry about Sodini until late summer in 2003, when he learned she wasn't dating anyone and built a password-protected Web page about her. She said she took offense at false content that showed he was "living in a fantasy."

"He thought that was his big opportunity. ... He thought I would be pleased with it," she said.

She asked Sodini to remove the page, but he refused. She sought help from the church and called police, inquiring about a restraining order because Sodini began to stalk her and threaten her with talk about guns.

"To me, in my mind, it was a distinct possibility that he would shoot me. I wasn't raised to take the threat of guns cavalierly," she said. "I was afraid."

Because she had no proof, police could not help, she said.

Members of the Tetelestai congregation intervened, according to church deacon Charles Matone of Greensburg, who said he gave Sodini a letter asking him to stay away from the church for two to three months because "he was bothering a woman.". Quillin said a state trooper, whom she declined to identify, spoke to Sodini unofficially on her behalf.

After talking to the trooper, Sodini stopped calling, she said. Even though the stalking lasted only a few months, she continued to worry.

She sold her Murray Hill Avenue home and moved into a rental property in Lower Burrell, where she lived until she left her 16-year job at PPG Industries to take a job 100 miles away in Ohio. In 2007, she moved to Colorado.

"Each time, I felt that it would be more difficult for him to find me," she said.

Quillin said she seldom thought about Sodini until Rickard called her after the Aug. 4 shootings that killed Jody Billingsley, 37, of Mt. Lebanon, Heidi Overmier, 46, of Carnegie, and Elizabeth Gannon, 49, of Green Tree.

"The only difference between me and the women in the gym class is that I saw George coming. I had time to act. George was a complete surprise to them.

"I am convinced that is the way he wanted it," Quillin said.

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT

Mark Wilson, Monongahela

The following cases were held before Magisterial District Judge Mark Wilson of Monongahela this week:

■ Jessica Levandowsky, 22, of 902A Marion St., New Eagle, was charged with two counts of DUI and traffic violations June 13 by the Pennsylvania State Police. The case was waived to court.

■ Jason Car, no age given, of 172 Main St., New Eagle, was charged with theft in November, 2008, by a private party. The case was withdrawn as Carr made restitution.

■ Frank Maramor Jr., no age given, of North Braddock, was charged with writing bad checks in August, 2009, by a private party. The case was held for court.

■ Rose Jericho, 25, of 215 1/2 Kenric Ave., Donora, was charged with driving while her license was suspended or revoked – habitual offender and fleeing Aug. 29 by Donora police. The habitual offender charge was changed to driving while suspended and the case was held for court.

■ Bobby Crosby Jr., 29, of 351 Third St., Smithton, was charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving while his license was suspended or revoked Sept. 25 by Donora police. The case was held for court.

■ Robin Earley, 48, of 314 Fifth St., Monongahela, was charged with two counts of DUI, accidents involving damage to unattended vehicle or property and traffic violations Aug. 1 by Monongahela police. The case was waived to court.

■ Jonathan Minniti, 29, of 352 Balazia Ave., Monessen, was charged with burglary, theft, criminal attempt and three counts of criminal conspiracy Sept. 15 by Donora police. The case was held for court.

■ Ermin Mikels II, 22, of 128 Lookout Ave., Charleroi, was charged with burglary, theft, criminal attempt and three counts of criminal conspiracy Sept. 15 by Donora police. The case was withdrawn by the officer.

■ Charles Arnold, 32, of 902 Old West Road, Apt. 902, Bentleyville, was charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession with intent to deliver, possession of drug paraphernalia, forgery and acquisition by misrepresentation Oct. 19 by Donora police. The case was waived to court.

■ Michael Gori, 53, of 937 McKean Ave., Donora, was charged with two counts of insurance fraud and theft by deception Jan. 25, 2008, by the Pennsylvania State Attorney General's office. The case was waived to court.

■ Adam Bodnar, 25, of 104 Eighth St., Monongahela, was charged with endangering the welfare of children, simple assault and disorderly conduct Sept. 19 by Monongahela police. The case was dismissed because the officer failed to show.

■ Shannon Lang, 24, of 666 Thompson Ave., Donora, was charged with access device used for services Sept. 15 by Donora police. The case was held for court.

■ Xavier Aguilar, 61, of 1329 Gilmore Ave., Donora, was charged with disorderly conduct and harassment Sept. 15 by Donora police. He was found guilty of harassment and not guilty of disorderly conduct.

■ Andreas Veneris, 41, of 227 Collinsburg Road, West Newton, was charged with harassment, retail theft and disorderly conduct July 25 by Monongahela police. He pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and the other charges were withdrawn by the officer.

CORRECTIONS / CLARIFICATIONS

Union Township accident correction

A vehicle driven by Judith Critchfield, 48, of Monongahela, struck the rear of a vehicle operated by Bret Agostini, 35, of Bethel Park, on Oct. 19 on Route 88 in Union Township. In a state police report in Thursday's edition, it incorrectly stated Agostini's vehicle struck Critchfield's vehicle.

Valley Grapevine deadline set

Items for Valley Grapevine should be submitted at least five publishing days prior to scheduled meetings or events.

In Memory Of
Barry R. Schnur
In loving memory of my beloved son, who passed away 4 years ago today, October 30, 2005.
It will be 4 years since you left me, no farewell words were spoken, and no time to say goodbye. And you were gone before I knew it, and only God knows why.
Sadly missed and loved by Mother Bernice and all who loved him

NEWS

TODAY in HISTORY

Today is Friday, Oct. 30, the 303rd day of 2009. There are 62 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight:

On Oct. 30, 1938, the radio play "The War of the Worlds," starring Orson Welles, aired on CBS. (The live drama, which employed fake breaking news reports, panicked some listeners who thought the portrayal of a Martian invasion was real.)

On this date:

■ In 1735, the second president of the United States, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Mass.

■ In 1945, the U.S. government announced the end of shoe rationing, effective at midnight.

■ In 1974, Muhammad Ali regained his world heavyweight title by knocking out George Foreman in the eighth round of a 15-round bout in Kinshasa, Zaire, known as the "Rumble in the Jungle."

■ In 1975, the New York Daily News ran the headline "Ford to City: Drop Dead" a day after President Gerald R. Ford said he would veto any proposed federal bailout of New York City.

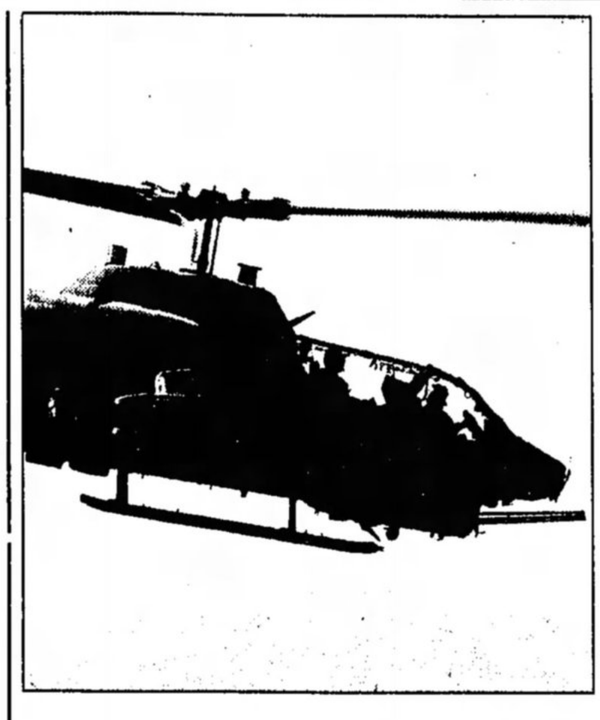
■ In 1979, President Jimmy Carter announced his choice of federal appeals judge Shirley Hufstedler to head the newly created Department of Education.

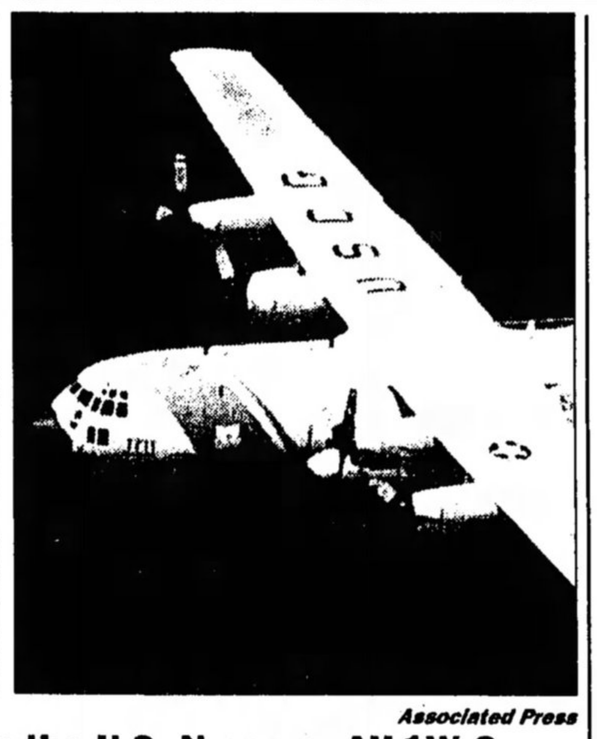
■ In 1984, police in Poland found the body of kidnapped pro-Solidarity priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko, whose death was blamed on security officers.

■ **Ten years ago**: Fifty-four people were killed in a fire inside a four-story building crowded with weekend shoppers and diners in Incheon, South Korea.

■ **Five years ago**: The decapitated body of Japanese backpacker Shosei Koda was found wrapped in an American flag in northwestern Baghdad; the militant group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi later claimed responsibility.

■ **One year ago**: A federal jury in Miami convicted the son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in the first case brought under a 1994 U.S. law allowing prosecution for torture and atrocities committed overseas.





Associated Press

In this image at left provided by the U.S. Navy, an AH-1W Super Cobra performs a low altitude surveillance pass. A helicopter similar to the one shown is believed to be missing after it collided with a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft similar to the one at right Thursday off the Southern California coast, officials said.

Plane, helicopter collide in midair

A pilot reported seeing a fireball near where the aircraft collided.

By THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Coast Guard and Navy were searching early today for as many as nine people off the Southern California coast following a collision between a Coast Guard plane and a Marine Corps helicopter, officials said.

The crash was reported at 7:10 p.m. Thursday, about 50 miles off the San Diego County coast and 15 miles east of San Clemente Island, Coast Guard spokeswoman Petty Officer Allyson Conroy said.

A pilot reported seeing a fireball near where the aircraft collided, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor said, and the Coast Guard informed the FAA that debris from a C-130 had been spotted. Seven people were on board the plane, a C-130, and two people were aboard the helicopter, he said.

Cpl. Michael Stevens, a spokesman for the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station, said the AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter was on a training mission when it went down. The Cobra and its crew are part of Marine Aircraft Group 39, based at Camp Pendleton, and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, which is headquartered at Miramar, Stevens said.

The missing Coast Guard plane and its crew are from Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento, said Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Jetta Disco. Crews from the Sacramento Coast Guard station fly search-and-rescue, law enforcement and logistics missions, Disco said.

The Coast Guard planned to search through the night, having sent three cutters and diverting an MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter to the area to search for survivors. The Navy, meanwhile, sent four vessels and multiple helicopters.

"The search condition are ideal for tonight," Lt. Josh Nelson of the Coast Guard told XETV in San Diego. "We've got a clear sky, the winds are calm, the seas are calm, and we have a lot of assets out there."

San Clemente Island is the southernmost of the eight Channel Islands located 68 nautical miles west of San Diego. The Navy has owned and trained at San Clemente Island since 1934, according to the island's Web site. Naval Air Station, North Island is responsible for the island's administration.

Earlier this week, it was an AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter that collided with a UH-1 helicopter over southern Afghanistan, killing four American troops and wounding two more, a Marine spokesman said.

Hall of Fame anniversary observed

NEW YORK (AP) — The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame honors music's most treasured acts, but this time it was the hall's turn to be feted, as Bruce Springsteen, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder and more celebrated the hall's 25th birthday with a concert that included all-star collaborations, spellbinding guitars, plenty of high notes — and even tears.

Thursday's extravaganza at Madison Square Garden, the first of two concerts, ran more than five hours, and was a reunion of past inductees: Among the performers were Simon & Garfunkel (1990), Crosby, Stills and Nash (1997), Jeff Beck (2009), James Taylor (2000), Bonnie Raitt (2000) and Sting (with the Police, 2003).

Springsteen's rollicking set ran nearly two hours and featured the Boss collaborating with the Piano Man.

The night's emotional highlight came courtesy of Wonder, who sang Michael Jackson's upbeat "The Way You Make Me Feel," in tribute to the fallen King of Pop. During one part in the chorus, Wonder stopped singing, bent his head and started to sob, but he quickly gathered his composure to finish the song, ending it joyously by leading the crowd with chants of "We Love Michael Jackson" and "Long Live Michael Jackson."

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Honduras coup accord signed

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Representatives of ousted President Manuel Zelaya finally reached an agreement with the interim government that could help end the monthslong dispute over Honduras' June 28 coup, and possibly pave the way for Zelaya's reinstatement.

The Organization of American States announced the deal late Thursday but did not release a text of the accord, in which Zelaya appears to have agreed to throw his fate into the hands of a congress that has largely supported interim President Roberto Micheletti.

"We are optimistic because Hondurans can reach agreements that are fulfilled," Zelaya told Radio Globo, an opposition station. "This signifies my return to power in the coming days, and peace for Honduras."

The agreement, if it holds, could represent a much-needed foreign policy victory for the United States, which dispatched a senior team of diplomats to coax both sides back to the table.

Wisecracks for candy

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — There's no trick to earning a treat for Halloween in Des Moines. All that's required is a good joke.

Even if it's a bad joke.

"What's the skeleton's favorite instrument? The trombone!" said 10-year-old Anna Mattern. "But you have to emphasize the bone."

For decades, as the city's make-believe ghosts and goblins trekked door to door on Beggar's Night, or the night before Halloween, they've had to perform to earn their treats.

The custom began at the suggestion of a former city parks director as a way to tamp down on Halloween vandalism and emphasize wholesome childhood fun. The initial idea was to have children sing a song, recite poetry or offer other kinds of entertainment, but over the years the tradition of telling a joke took hold.

Dutch court nixes teenager's sail

UTRECHT, Netherlands (AP) — A Dutch court has ruled that a 14-year-old girl is not yet experienced enough to set off on a record-breaking solo sailing trip around the world.

Judges at Utrecht District Court also placed Laura Dekker under the guardianship of child protection authorities until next July.

The ruling today means Laura can keep living with her father but her parents must consult child protection authorities about all major decisions in her life and she cannot begin her planned solo trip.

Judges said plans to ensure Laura's safety on the voyage were insufficient for them to let her set sail.

The teenager said she plans to wait until next May, after school ends, to embark on the voyage.

King memorial to move ahead

WASHINGTON (AP) — Construction can finally begin on the long-delayed Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial slated for the National Mall after the National Park Service issued building permits Thursday for the project.

The memorial was first authorized in 1996. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar joined King's only surviving sibling, Christine King Farris, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus to sign off on the project. A private foundation will build the memorial before turning it over to the park service.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

'Cash 5' jackpot at least $225,000

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Today's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" jackpot will be worth at least $225,000 because no player matched the five winning numbers drawn in Thursday's game.

Lottery officials said 61 players matched four numbers and won $266 each; 2,085 players matched three numbers and won $13 each; and 26,905 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

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Westmoreland County Auto Insurance Rate Comparison Chart

Married Couples Driving Profile	Allstate	Erie	Geico	Nationwide	Statefarm	CSC
47 Female, 50 Male, married	$1,035	$941	$945	$795	$1,130	$748

Bring your Auto policy in for an instant quote and we'll give you a Free Terrible Towel... It's Easy! If you have insurance with these well know companies we can save you money!
Call CSC Insurance Options at 724-929-2300 in Rostraver, PA

The comparison chart uses the same limits and deductibles. All cars driven to work under 10 miles, and 12,000 annual miles. Vehicles equipped with 4-wheel anti-lock brakes, and dual airbags. Account credit, court cdp, safe driver or similar discounts, multi-car discounts applied to all companies. Additional eligibility criteria varies by company, some rates may vary due to specific information compiled in 10/13/09 from retail pages provided by PA Insurance Advisor and via Quadrant Mapping. MU Corporate Penny Saver, Inc. Offer valid while supplies last.

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Discovery Day – November 7

Come to Cal U's Discovery Day Open House and unlock the door to opportunity. Tour our new residence halls, explore the campus, talk to our students. You'll find that all our doors are open on Discovery Day. Including the one to your future.

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The Valley Independent Lottery Results

PENNSYLVANIA — DAILY NUMBERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2009

DAY PICK 3:	7-1-9
NIGHT PICK 3:	3-3-9
DAY PICK BIG 4:	1-1-0-0
NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	4-5-3-0
DAY QUINTO:	4-7-2-0-6
NIGHT QUINTO:	2-8-5-1-2
TREASURE HUNT:	4-6-22-26-27
CASH 5:	1-9-27-33-41
MIX & MATCH:	13-7-6-3-12

OHIO — DAILY NUMBERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2009

DAY PICK 3:	8-1-0
NIGHT PICK 3:	9-3-7
DAY PICK 4:	4-6-6-0
NIGHT PICK 4:	4-9-0-4
ROLLING CASH 5:	7-9-13-18-31

WEST VIRGINIA — DAILY NUMBERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2009

DAILY 3:	9-8-9
DAILY 4:	6-1-1-0
CASH 25:	1-2-7-8-15-17

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

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OUR OPINION

Shadow government: Who's in charge?

Depending on whose count you use, President Obama is relying on anywhere from 28 to nearly three dozen policy "czars" to chart his administration's "change" course. Consider it America's shadow government. Consider it a danger to the republican form of government.

A few of the czar positions are mandated by Congress and, thus, require Senate confirmation. But Mr. Obama has created 18 new czars since taking office in January. Either eight or 10 of them formally are attached to the executive office and not subject to congressional or public scrutiny, reports The Washington Times.

The shady backgrounds of some already have been exposed. It's hard to imagine others don't share similar proclivities. And in far too many cases, it has become increasingly apparent that these czars -- and not the figurehead Cabinet members who had to undergo extensive background investigations and Senate confirmations -- are in charge.

And with absolutely no accountability to Congress or the American people. This cannot stand.

The White House is thumbing its nose at transparency and good government in saying it will not allow its policy czars to testify before Congress. That means Congress must enact legislation to require all czars to face public scrutiny through Senate confirmation.

Americans have every right to know who's running their country - and who's not.

The union label

Think organized labor doesn't distort paychecks out of all proportion to merit, skill and productivity? Consider New York City's fabled Carnegie Hall, where a union stagehand made $530,044 in salary and benefits for overseeing props -- 27 times a star pianist's pay for one performance.

Bloomberg.com also reports that two union carpenters and two union electricians made an average of $430,543. Ah, the benefits of a contract that bars nonunion workers.

The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees achieved such favorable terms via a 2007 strike that shut down 26 Broadway shows for weeks and ended with producers -- the supposed bosses -- agreeing to that five-year contract. That tells you who's really running the show.

An extreme example? Perhaps. Yet unmistakable are the pitfalls of collectively bargained "closed shops" that result when businesses surrender their rightful say regarding work rules and pay to unions to obtain short-term labor peace.

The plight of Carnegie Hall is a cautionary tale with profound implications for all businesses, all who rely on their paychecks -- and all self-interested politicians who gladly carry unions' water while ignoring the sloshing mess it makes of the larger economy.

YOUR OPINION

Thanks to businesses who had treats for kids

To the Editor,

I would like to thank all the merchants of Charleroi that showed up for the kids Wednesday night to give them a treat.

It was a wonderful affair for the children; they were everywhere, having a great time. It was really nice to see the parents out have a good time with their kids. If only the weather had cooperated.

While walking the street, I could not help notice some of the merchants did not precipitate. That was their choice, but I will say that I was truly disappointed in them.

It was a good time had by all, but next time you go out to shop, maybe you should stop and think about who put a smile on the kid's faces.

To all Charleroi Merchants that showed up for our kids, I thank you.

Carol Nichols
Charleroi

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.)

While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Newt, Sarah & new GOP

Pat **BUCHANAN**

"Sometimes party loyalty asks too much," said JFK. For Sarah Palin, party loyalty in New York's 23rd congressional district asks too much. Going rogue, Palin endorsed Conservative Party candidate Doug Hoffman over Republican Dede Scozzafava.

On Oct. 1, Scozzafava was leading. Today, she trails Democrat Bill Owens and is only a few points ahead of Hoffman, as Empire State conservatives defect to vote their principles, not their party.

Newt Gingrich stayed on the reservation, endorsing Scozzafava, who is pro-choice and pro-gay rights, and hauls water for the unions.

Scourged by the right, Newt accused conservatives of going over the hill in the battle to save the republic, just to get a buzz on. "If we are in the business about feeling good about ourselves while our country gets crushed, then I probably made the wrong decision." How Scozzafava would prevent America's being "crushed" was unexplained.

The 23rd recalls a famous Senate race 40 years ago. Rep. Charles Goodell was picked by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller to fill the seat of Robert Kennedy in 1968. To hold onto it, Goodell swerved sharp left, emerging as an upstate Xerox copy of Jacob Javits, the most liberal Republican in the Senate.

In 1970, Goodell got both the GOP and Liberal Party nominations, and faced liberal Democrat Richard Ottinger. This left a huge vacuum into which Conservative Party candidate James Buckley, brother of William F., smartly moved.

Assessing the field, the Nixon White House concluded that, with liberals split, Goodell could not win. But Buckley might. Signals were flashed north that loyalty to the president was not inconsistent with voting for Buckley. To send the signal in the clear, Vice President Agnew described Charlie Goodell to a New Orleans newspaper as "the Christine Jorgensen of the Republican Party."

The former George Jorgensen, Christine had undergone the most radical sex-change operation in recorded history.

Liberals went berserk, calling on New Yorkers to rally to Goodell, who began surging, at Ottinger's expense. Buckley scooted between them both to win. Hoffman may also. But even if he does not, Palin, a conservative of the heart, did the right thing.

And the GOP has been sent a necessary message.

For, according to Gallup, 40 percent of Americans now identify as conservatives — only 20 percent as Republicans. If the GOP is not the conservative party, it will never be America's Party.

But what does "conservative" mean in 2009? And where do conservatives come down on the great issues? For what the right is against — any repeal of the Bush tax cuts, the $787 billion stimulus, Obamacare — is much clearer than what the right stands for.

In 2010, this may not matter, as the Obamakins rule the roost and will be held accountable, and Republicans can unite around what they oppose.

Year 2012, however, is problematic.

Then the party must declare itself. And the reality is that the GOP remains a house divided.

What, for example, is the conservative view of the war in Iraq and the Bush economic policies that cost the party both Houses of Congress in 2006 and the White House in 2008?

Why did President Bush leave with 27 percent approval? Did Bush policies the GOP once applauded have anything to do with it?

Was Bush free trade responsible for the decline of the dollar and the loss of one in four manufacturing jobs? Is globalization still good for America and NAFTA the deal of the century?

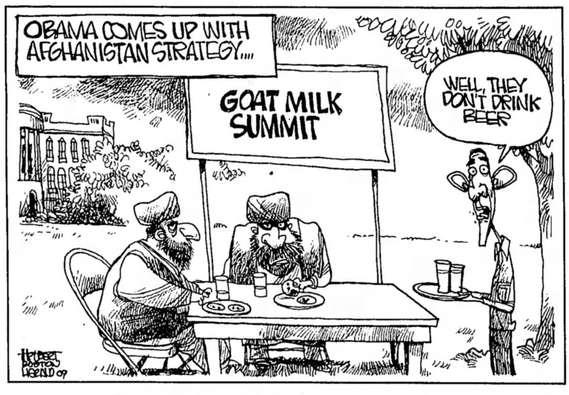
What is the conservative position on reaching out to Russia, as Barack-Obama has done, on bringing Georgia and Ukraine into NATO, and on canceling that anti-missile system Bush planned in Poland?

"We're all Georgians now!" John McCain declared. Are we?

What is the party position on a "long war" in Afghanistan?

For if America has soured on the war and opposes more troops today, will America be enthusiastic about soldiering on in 2012, after 1,000 or 2,000 more American dead have been shipped home?

Do Republicans support negotiating with Tehran, or cutting off gasoline and starting up the escalator to air strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities that are today under U.N. inspection?



Urgency for jobs, not health care

Byron **York**

How many times have you heard Barack Obama talk about "the fierce urgency of now"? The president has used the quote, from Martin Luther King Jr., to call for quick action on the war in Iraq, on global warming, on homelessness, on education — you name it.

Now, Obama and his fellow Democrats are trying to convince the nation of the fiercely urgent need to enact national health care reform this very instant.

"We have been waiting for health reform since the days of Teddy Roosevelt," Obama told the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation in September. "We cannot wait any longer. ... There comes a time to remember the fierce urgency of right now."

But the American people simply do not share Obama's sense of urgency about health care reform. In a new poll, the Gallup organization asked the following question: "If Congress is going to reform the health care system, should Congress deal with health care reform on a gradual basis over several years, or should Congress try to pass a comprehensive health care reform plan this year?" Just 38 percent of those surveyed want reform now, versus a clear majority — 58 percent — who want reform on a gradual basis.

When you break Gallup's results down by political party, you see that Democrats are the only ones feeling any urgency at all. Fifty-nine percent of Democrats want reform now, but 77 percent of Republicans, and 63 percent of independents, want gradual reform. When it comes to health care reform, there is no fierce urgency of now.

The plain fact is, the public's top priority lies elsewhere. "The only issue that people have a sense of fierce urgency about right now is the economy and jobs," says Republican pollster David Winston. "The president is in an uphill battle to try to move the discussion to other topics."

It's not that people think health care is unimportant. They just think the economy and jobs are more important — far more important.

Obama knows that; that's why he tries to link health care and economic recovery, arguing that we can't have real recovery without health care reform. But people aren't buying it.

For a recent report to House Republican Leader John Boehner, Winston asked people to judge two different approaches to today's woes. The choice was between "Republicans who say Congress should be focusing on long-term policies that create jobs, like small business and family tax relief, and controlling federal spending to get our economy moving again," and "Democrats who say that health insurance reform is key to jump-starting the economy by expanding coverage to the uninsured, lowering costs, and restricting the worst insurance company practices, and we must get it done this year."

Fifty-four percent of respondents agreed with the Republican approach, versus 40 percent who agreed with the Democratic approach. That's not because they like Republicans better than Democrats, but because they want their leaders to directly address the economy and jobs.

Now, with Christina Romer, chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, conceding that unemployment, currently nearing 10 percent, is "likely to remain at severely elevated levels" through all of 2010, the contrast between the public's deep worries over jobs and the president's obsession with passing health care reform could not be more striking.

"There's a concern that the administration is off on the wrong topic," Winston says. "Americans are saying, 'What about the economy? What about jobs? Let's get that taken care of, and then we can address health care.' "

But Obama and his Democratic allies in Congress aren't answering. If you want to know why, just go back to that speech to the Congressional Black Caucus. National health care has been the holy grail of the Democratic Party for decades. At this moment, Democrats hold 256 seats in the House and 60 in the Senate, counting the two independents who generally vote with them. Most observers expect them to lose seats in November 2010, and much of next year to be consumed by midterm election campaigning. So there will never be a moment better than now for Obama and his party to achieve their long-cherished goal.

The problem is, the public believes there are more important things to do at this moment. If the president and his party ignore their wishes, the voters' next fiercely urgent priority might be defeating Democrats at election time.

Family welcomes home remains of WWII airman

Funeral services today for Sgt. Robert Stinson, whose plane crashed in 1944.

By The Associated Press

HIGHLAND, Calif. — For two decades after her son's bomber went down in the Pacific Ocean during World War II, Vella Stinson faithfully wrote the U.S. government twice a month to ask if his body had been found — or if anyone was looking.

The mother of six strapping boys went to her grave without the answer that has finally reached her two surviving sons 65 years later: the remains of Sgt. Robert Stinson came home earlier this week.

Military divers recovered several pieces of leg bone from the wreckage of a B-24J Liberator bomber found at the bottom of the ocean off the coast of the island nation of Palau. DNA testing showed the femur fragments belonged to the 24-year-old flight engineer who died in combat on Sept. 1, 1944.

Stinson's remains arrived under U.S. Air Force escort Wednesday and were be buried today at Riverside National Cemetery with full military honors. In between, the body will be kept at a mortuary less than 100 yards from the home where Stinson grew up with his brothers.

"He's not someplace on a little island or at the bottom of the ocean. He's home," said Edward Stinson, who was 9 when his brother died.

For Robert Stinson, the journey home was far from a sure thing.

Stinson's family knew only that his bomber had gone down in the Pacific Ocean after being hit by anti-aircraft fire. The government politely responded to his mother's letters but said again and again that no new information had surfaced.

The family learned that Stinson, who joined the Army Air Forces right out of high school, won several medals in the summer of 1944 for participating in dangerous attacks on Japanese airdomes, military installations and enemy ships. His plane was dubbed "Babes in Arms."

In 1994, a nonprofit group of adventurers and scuba divers began to search for the missing bomber off the waters of Koror, Palau's biggest island. The 15-member group, called BentProp, travels to the island nation each year for a month to search for some 200 missing U.S. World War II aircraft.

Half of the wrecks scattered in the waters around the archipelago's 300 tiny islands have missing crew members associated with them, said Daniel O'Brien, a member of the BentProp team. Stinson's plane had 11 crew members — and there were eyewitness reports of where it went down. Eight crew members went down with the plane; three parachuted out, but were captured by the Japanese and are believed to have been executed.

The group attended reunions of Stinson's bomber squadron and the aging veterans told them where they thought they had seen the plane go down as the rest of the formation raced back to base at 200 mph. BentProp members methodically searched that area for six years, but found nothing.

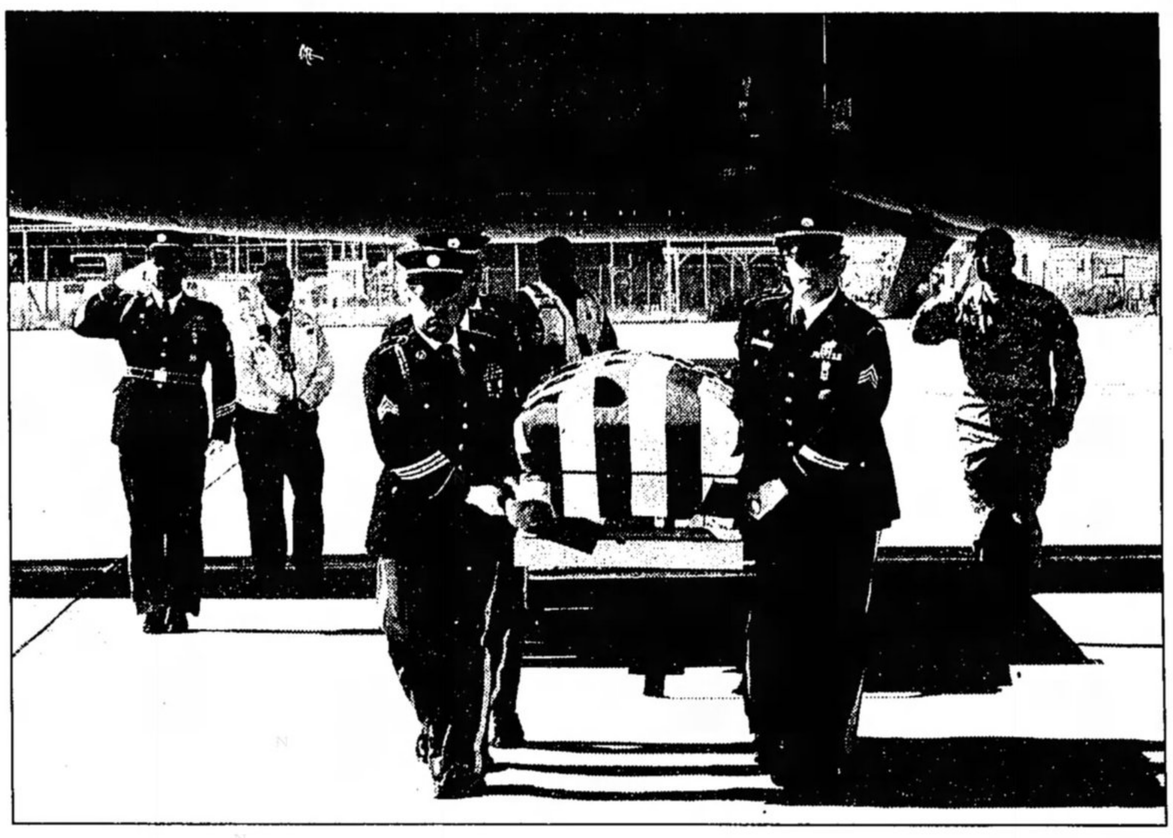
Then, in 2000, several members of the group doing more research stumbled upon obscure black-and-white aerial photos in the National Archives that were taken by a crew member aboard another bomber just moments after Stinson's plane went down. The team thought it odd the photographer had taken shots when no bombs were falling, and then realized the pictures were probably an attempt to document where the bomber crashed.

The pictures indicated a splash zone eight miles from where BentProp had been looking.

An elderly fisherman bolstered that evidence: he had seen plane wreckage in that area while spear-fishing about 15 years before.

The team dove the site in 2004 and instantly hit a jackpot: a B-24 propeller at 30 feet and then the plane, broken in three parts around a coral head where it had sat for more than 60 years. Debris was scattered at up to 70 feet deep.

The divers quickly turned over their findings to the Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command, or JPAC, the government agency that searches for U.S. prisoners of war and missing soldiers.



Associated Press

The remains of Air Force Sgt. Robert Stinson arrive under military escort at California's Ontario International Airport on a flight from Hawaii earier this week. The remains of a World War II airman missing for 65 years after his bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean were returned to the family for services today.

Military divers soon confirmed the plane's identity and recovered hundreds of items from the ocean floor, including dozens of tiny bone fragments, a rusted metal eyeglass frame, a tangled parachute cord attached to singed parachute, a shoe sole, coins, dog tags and one intact shoelace.

In 2006, Edward Stinson and Richard Stinson, the other surviving brother, gave DNA samples. On Feb. 1, Richard Stinson got the call: their brother, the 6-foot-4 clown with curly hair and a love of sports and poker, was finally coming home.

Four other missing crew members were also identified through DNA and are being returned to their families. Other remains found at the site were identified as human but were too fragmented to be linked to the three other men aboard, said Air Force Lt. Col. Wayne Perry. They will, however, be memorialized with the entire crew at Arlington National Cemetery next spring.

"There's finally an ending to it. We never expected something like this," said Richard Stinson, now 87. "We knew that three of them had gotten out of the plane and ... you always hope that the three that got out, that one of them would be him and that maybe he survived."

With Stinson's remains home, his brothers are overwhelmed with the memories they have stored away all these decades — memories that, until now, are all they had.

And, after years of imagining their brother lost and alone at the bottom of the ocean, his brothers have finally found their own peace.

"He hasn't been lonely the last two, three weeks. He has risen," said Edward Stinson.

"Welcome home, brother."

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES

Here's a rubdown on activities scheduled at local senior centers for next week:

BROWNSVILLE

Monday – 10:30-noon, games and socializing; 12:30-2:30, bingo.

Tuesday – 10-noon, ceramics, 10:30-noon, skat and socializing; 1-2:30, bingo.

Wednesday – 10:30-noon, games and socializing; 11, speaker Joe Herron on Social Security Medicare Part D; 11:15, sit 'n fit exercise class; 11:45, wild pill drawing 1-2:30, bowling and bingo.

Thursday – 10:30-noon, skat and socializing; 12:30-2:30, cards and bingo.

Friday – 10-noon, skat, pokeno and socializing; 1-2:30, bingo; volunteer dinner.

CENTER ON THE HILL

Monday – 10:30, bingo, 11, canasta; 12:45, euchre; 6:30, pinochle.

Tuesday – 9:30, video exercise; 10:30, bingo; 11, crafts; 1, card club; pinochle; 7, euchre.

Wednesday – 10:30, bingo, Bible study; 1, country jam session.

Thursday – 9:30, video exercise; 10:30, bingo; 1-3, "Shop for a Cause."

Friday – 10:30, bingo.

RIVERSIDE PLACE (CHARLEROI)

Monday – 8:30, fitness room; 9, dance town; 10, exercise for arthritis; 11:30, 1, bingo; darts; 4:45, zumba; Wii, jigsaw puzzles.

Tuesday – 8:30, fitness room; 9, dance town; 11:30, bingo; jigsaw puzzles; Wii (video games); 5, yoga classes.

Wednesday – 8:30, fitness room; 9, dance town; silver sneakers; 11:30, bingo; 1, big bingo, Wii; jigsaw puzzles; 7, MV Community Band rehearsals.

Thursday – 8:30, fitness room; dance town; 10, exercise for arthritis; 11:30, bingo; Wii; jigsaw puzzles; 1, darts.

Friday – 8:30, fitness room; 9, dance town; 11:30, bingo; jigsaw puzzles; Wii.

DONORA

Monday – 10, line dancing; 11, blood pressures; 11:45, bingo; 1, bingo.

Tuesday – 11:45, bingo; 1, cards and pokeno, bingo.

Wednesday – 10, beginners' line dancing; 11:45, bingo.

Thursday – 11:45, bingo; 1, cards and pokeno.

Friday – 11:45, bingo.

MONONGAHELA

Monday – 11:30, bingo; 1, cards; jigsaw puzzles.

Tuesday – 9, crafts; 10:30, spooky sing-along; 11:30, bingo; 1:30, bingo; 1, cards, darts; jigsaw puzzles; 6, Thursday evening social.

Wednesday – dominoes, 11:30, bingo; 1, low impact exercise, cards; jigsaw puzzles.

Thursday – 11:30, bingo; 1, cards; jigsaw puzzles; 6, Thursday night social.

Friday – 11:30, bingo; 1, cards, jigsaw puzzles .

PERRYOPOLIS

Monday – 8, walking; 9, poker club, card club; 10, healthy steps; 1, cards and table games; jigsaw puzzles.

Tuesday – 8, walking; 10, sing along, pinochle, sing-along; 1, pickin and grinning; jigsaw puzzles.

Wednesday – 8, walking; 9:30, bingo, jigsaw puzzles.

Thursday – 8, walking; 9, ceramics; 10, healthy steps; 1, crafts; jigsaw puzzles.

Friday – 8, walking; 9:30, bingo; jigsaw puzzles.

SENIOR CENTER MENUS

Here's a look at lunch menus for local senior citizen centers for next week:

Center on the Hill, Donora, Monongahela Perryopolis and Riverside Place

Monday – Philly cheese steak
Tuesday – Pot roast
Wednesday – Barbecued pork sandwich
Thursday – Vegetable lasagna
Friday – Oven fried chicken

Monessen and West Newton

Monday – Roast beef and cheese sandwich
Tuesday – Ziti
Wednesday – Pizza
Thursday – Grilled chicken patty
Friday – Breaded fish

Police ID long-time Jane Doe

DENVER (AP) — Police on a cold case hunt have finally identified a woman whose nude and battered body was found along a Boulder creek 55 years ago.

But that doesn;t close the case — they want to name the killer.

She was buried under a headstone that read "Jane Doe" and remained anonymous until a DNA test revealed that she was Dorothy Gay Howard, of Phoenix, officials announced earlier this week. She had been reported missing in March 1954.

The ID was resolved by the Boulder County Sheriff's Department, Internet research and the persistence of local historian Silvia Pettem.

Sheriff Joe Pelle, whose department renewed efforts five years ago to find out who she was, said a relatives provided the genetic sample.

Sheriff's Cmdr. Rick Brough said it was gratifying to finally know who the woman was. But he added "it's not closed yet;" the department still wants to find Howard's killer.

"With her identification, a major piece of the puzzle has been added," said detective Steve Ainsworth, the lead investigator.

Officials say serial killer Harvey Glatman, executed in 1959 in California, might have murdered Howard. Glatman, who confessed to killing three women, had served time for violent assaults on woman.

Dr. Allan Tissenbaum is now with The Washington Hospital

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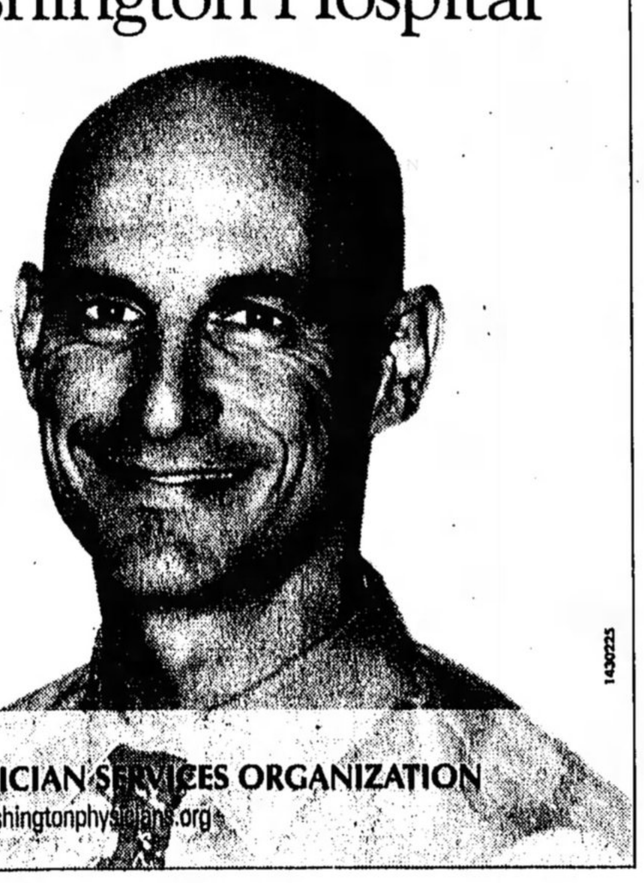

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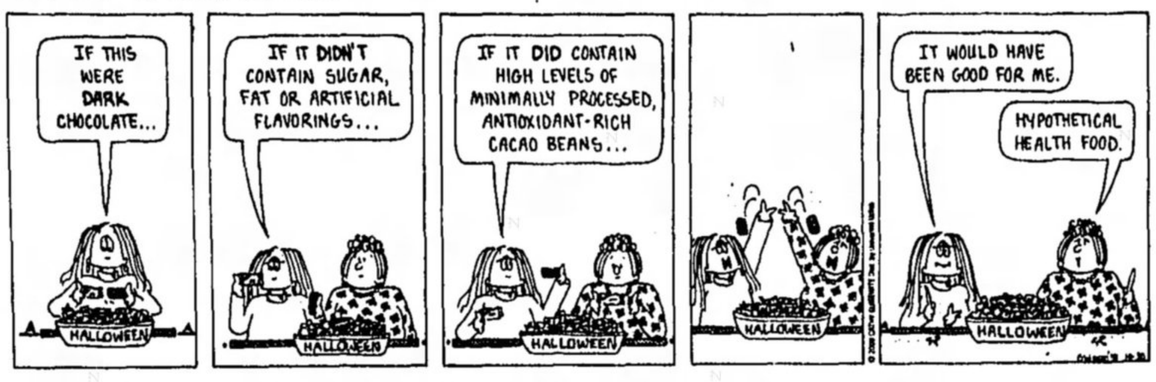
COMICS

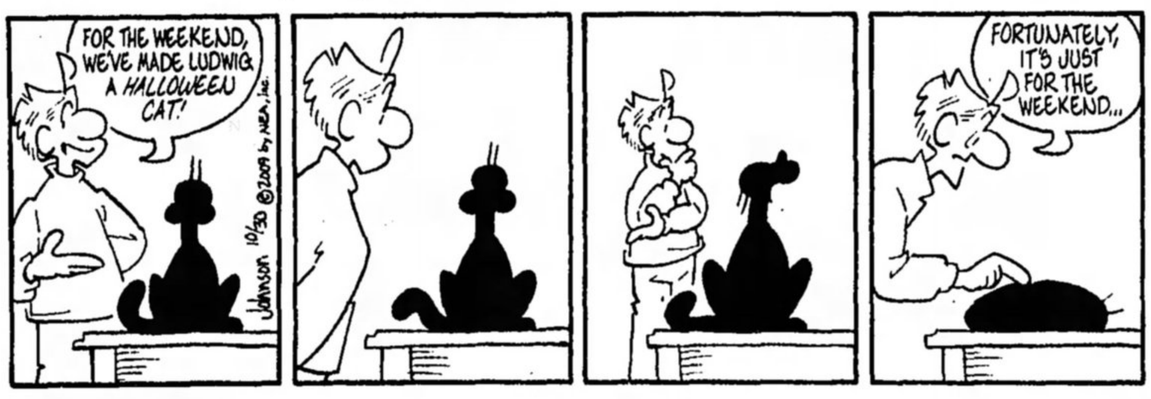
CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite


IF THIS WERE DARK CHOCOLATE...
HALLOWEEN
IF IT DIDN'T CONTAIN SUGAR, FAT OR ARTIFICIAL FLAVORINGS...
HALLOWEEN
IF IT DID CONTAIN HIGH LEVELS OF MINIMALLY PROCESSED, ANTIOXIDANT-RICH CACAO BEANS...
HALLOWEEN
HALLOWEEN
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD FOR ME.
HYPOTHETICAL HEALTH FOOD.
HALLOWEEN

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

WE NOW RETURN TO "DRACULA MEETS THE CHICAGO BEARS"
LOOK AT ZA SIZE OF ZOBE NECKS!
IT'S ZA MOTHER LODE!!
YOU RARELY HEAR A VAMPIRE SQUEAL LIKE A SCHOOLGIRL

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson

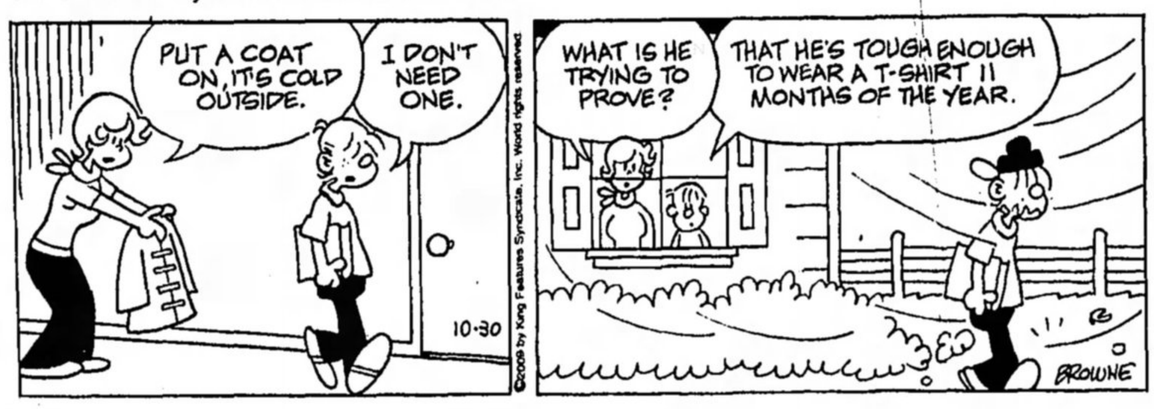


***Classic* PEANUTS®** by Charles M. Schulz

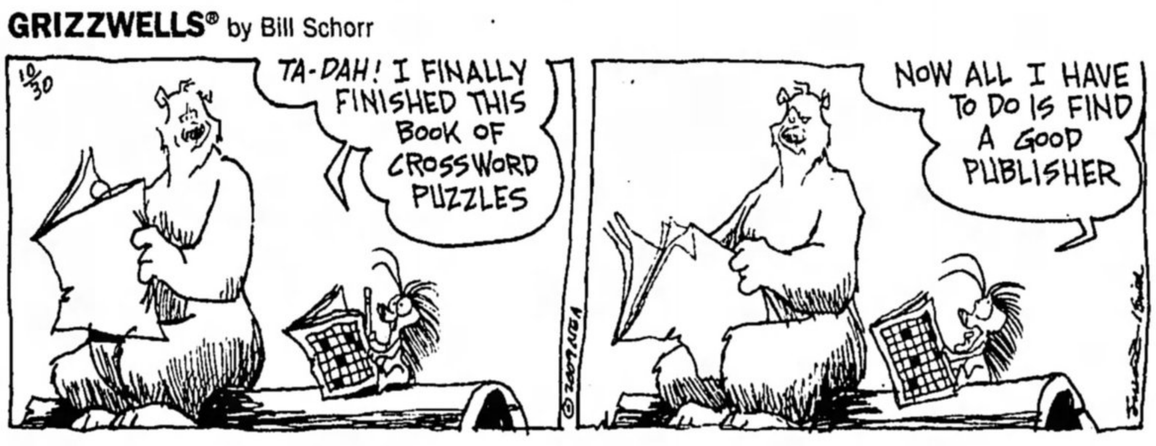
RERUN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M WITH LINUS..
HE'S ACROSS THE STREET KNOCKING ON DOORS TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT THE "GREAT PUMPKIN"
I'M STANDING OVER HERE SO NO ONE WILL KNOW I'M WITH HIM..
WHAT KIND OF AN EVANGELIST ARE YOU?
I'M A SEMI-EVANGELIST

BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker

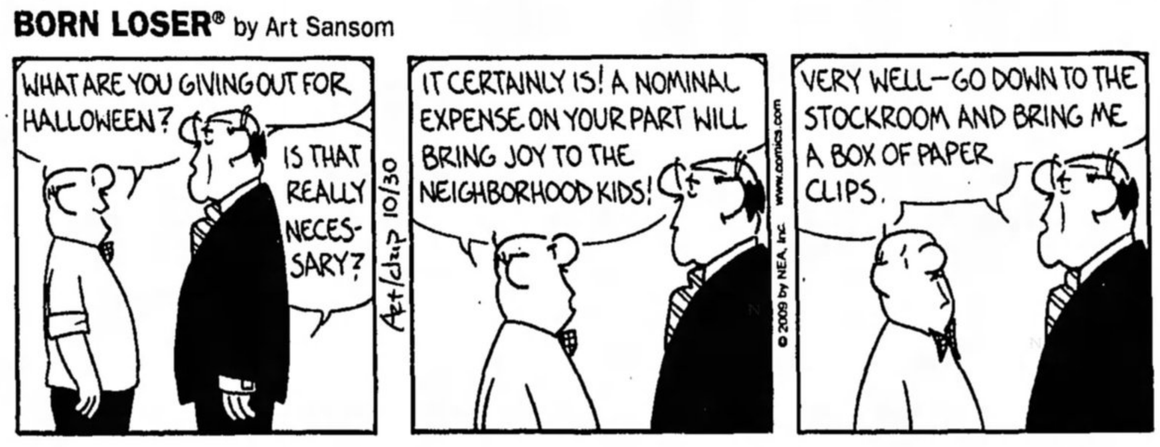
HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne


PUT A COAT ON, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE.
I DON'T NEED ONE.
WHAT IS HE TRYING TO PROVE?
THAT HE'S TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR A T-SHIRT 11 MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

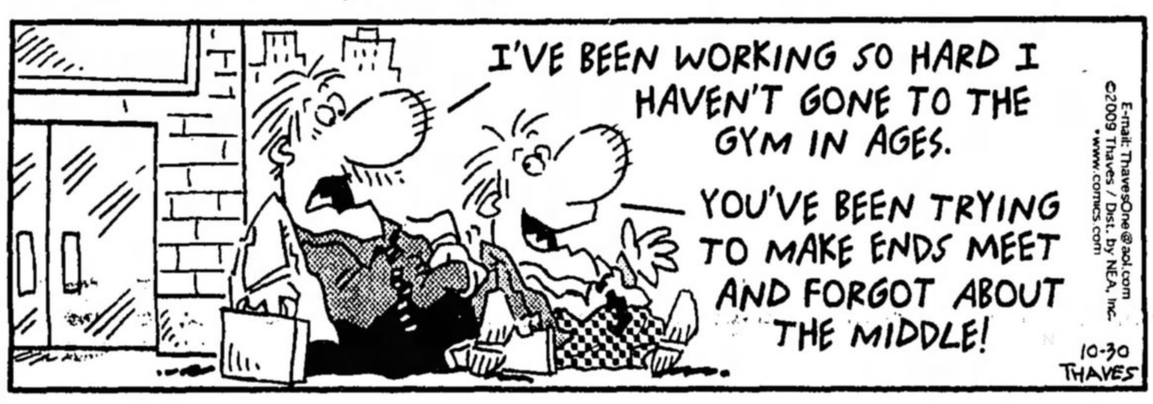
GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



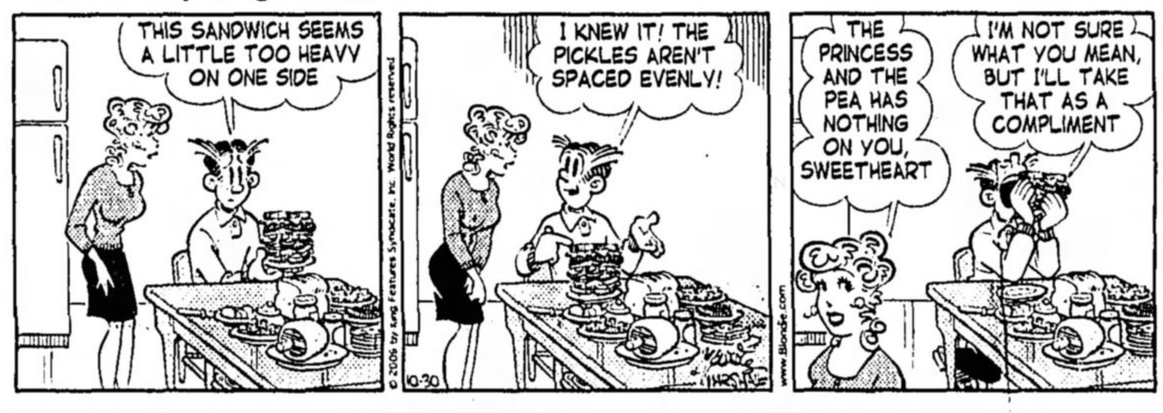
BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom


WHAT ARE YOU GIVING OUT FOR HALLOWEEN?
IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?
IT CERTAINLY IS! A NOMINAL EXPENSE ON YOUR PART WILL BRING JOY TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS!
VERY WELL—GO DOWN TO THE STOCKROOM AND BRING ME A BOX OF PAPER CLIPS.

FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



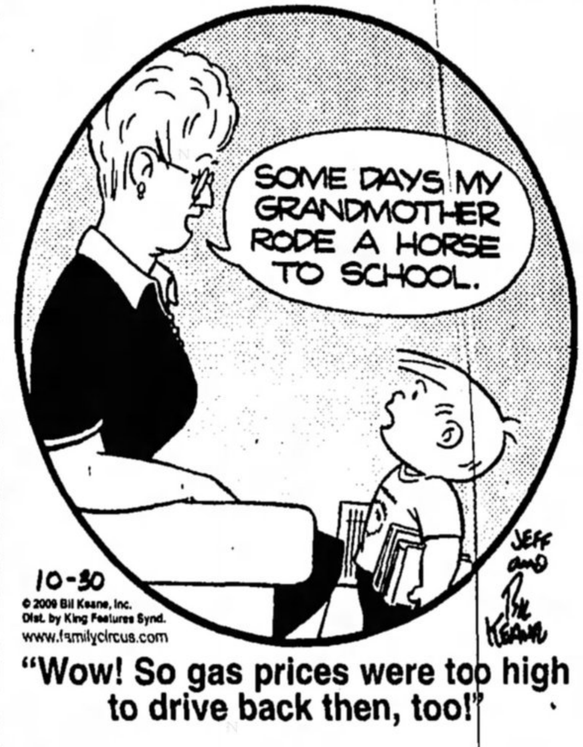
BLONDIE® by Young and Marshall


THIS SANDWICH SEEMS A LITTLE TOO HEAVY ON ONE SIDE
I KNEW IT! THE PICKLES AREN'T SPACED EVENLY!
THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA HAS NOTHING ON YOU, SWEETHEART
I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT

SOUP TO NUTZ™ by Rick Stromoski

KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

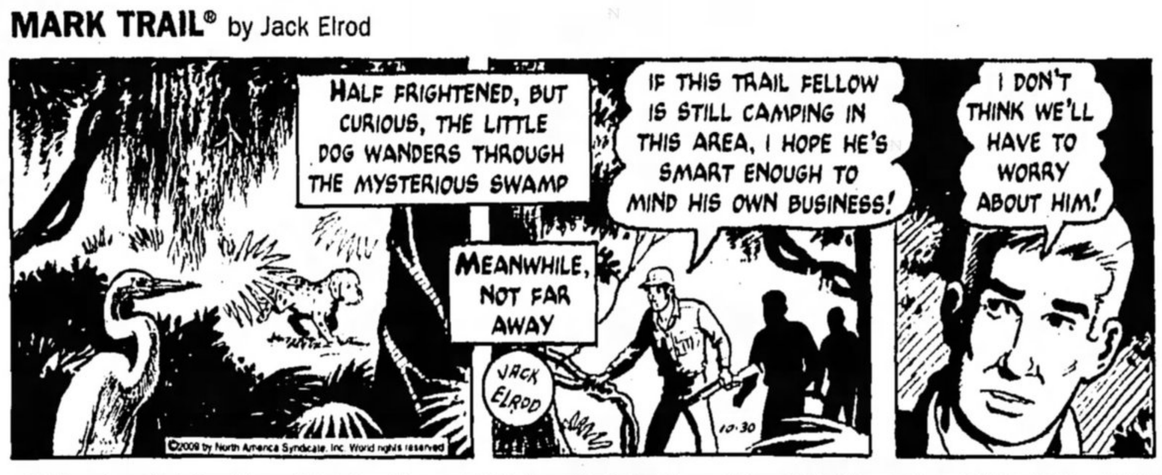


"Wow! So gas prices were too high to drive back then, too!"

BIG NATE® by Lincoln Peirce

NOW THAT WAS A HOUSE WITH SOME GOOD CANDY! THOSE PEOPLE KNOW WHAT HALLOWEEN IS ALL ABOUT!
I GOT PEANUT BUTTER CUPS AND A KIT KAT BAR! WHAT DID YOU GET?
SHEVERAL SHNICKERSH BARSH AND SHOME SHTARBURSHTSH!
HERE, PETER. I'M MOVING YOU DOWN-WIND.
.. AND SHNO-CAPSH! I GOT SHNO-CAPSH!

MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod


HALF FRIGHTENED, BUT CURIOUS, THE LITTLE DOG WANDERS THROUGH THE MYSTERIOUS SWAMP
IF THIS TRAIL FELLOW IS STILL CAMPING IN THIS AREA, I HOPE HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO MIND HIS OWN BUSINESS!
I DON'T THINK WE'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM!
MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY
JACK ELROD

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

	2		8	6				
					9	7		1
	1	9				5		
	5							9
2								6
3							1	
		2				9	3	
7		6	5					
				1	4		8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/30

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Answer to previous puzzle

9	1	5	6	3	4	8	7	2
6	2	3	9	7	8	1	5	4
4	7	8	1	2	5	9	3	6
7	3	1	8	5	2	4	6	9
2	5	4	7	6	9	3	8	1
8	9	6	3	4	1	5	2	7
3	8	2	4	1	6	7	9	5
5	4	7	2	9	3	6	1	8
1	6	9	5	8	7	2	4	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/29

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THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT CrosswordPuzzle

ACROSS

1 PTA member
4 Curdle
8 Fidel's friend
11 Senate attire
12 Church part
13 Dory's need
14 Painter Salvador —
15 Be sincere
16 Wimple wearer
17 J.R. attire
19 Car owner's proof
21 Literary miscellany
22 Hatcher or Garr
23 "— vincit amor"
26 Ruthless ruler
28 Want-ad abbr.
29 High mountain
31 Tobacco chew
33 Races the engine
35 Contends
37 Mini-guitar
38 Throat feature
40 Curry powder ingredient
42 Fossil fuel
43 Take a snooze
44 Mops
46 Commonplace
50 Shogun's yes
51 Tended the garden
53 Ayla's creator
54 "That Girl" girl
55 — vera
56 Monorail
57 Go right!
58 Evergreens
59 Partake of

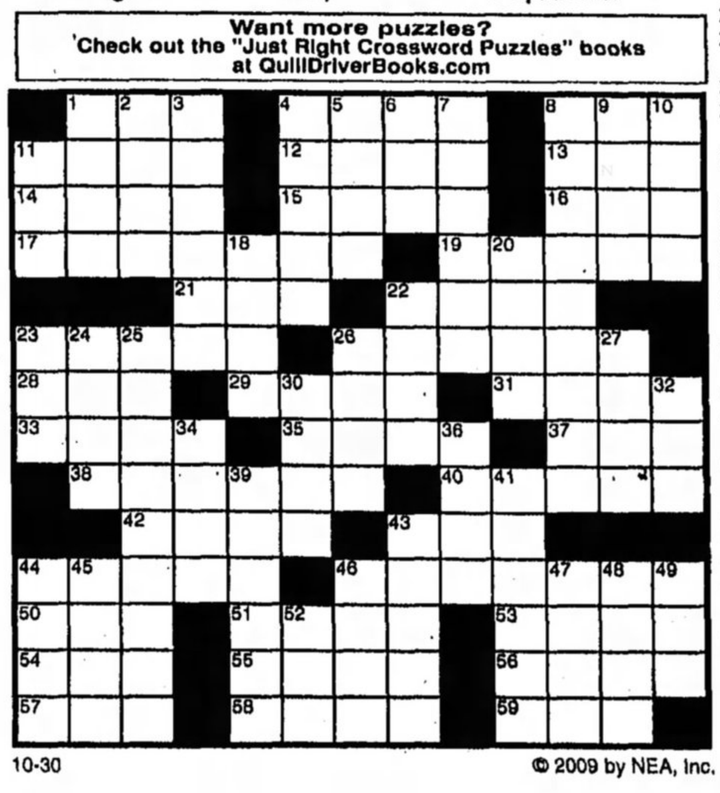
DOWN

1 Castle defense
2 Give the eye
3 Rum drink (2 wds.)
4 Mead's island
5 Inaugurate
6 Can. neighbor
7 Lessee
8 Space-time —
9 Transport
10 Sea eagle
11 Gridiron stats
18 Be impatient
20 Kuwait neighbor
22 Little kid
23 Above, in verse
24 Rendezvous
25 Dentist's supply
26 Peacock's pride
27 "Kon-—"
30 Wicked
32 Lair
34 Uppity one
36 Diagnostic image
39 Walk nonchalantly
41 Latest news
43 Pantyhose colors
44 Layered haircut
45 Decline
46 Pet pigs
47 Faint glow
48 Not cluttered
49 Stately tree
52 Fiesta shout

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	H	A	S	E				V	E	T	O	
P	A	S	T	E	L		E	O	C	E	N	E
A	M	P	E	R	E		P	R	O	N	T	O
		W	I	T	H	I	T		S	O	N	
	V	I	S	E		A	C	E	D			
R	A	G		R	U	G		X	E	N	A	
A	L	L		M	G	M		L	Y	R	E	
W	O	O	D		A	L	E		L	I	L	
	R	O	A	D		I	M	P		D	A	F
		S	E	A	N		L	E	N	S		
I	D	A		E	D	G	I	E	R			
C	I	N	E	M	A		F	A	N	N	E	D
E	S	T	E	E	M		S	T	I	F	L	E
	H	E	L	D				S	E	L	L	S

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com



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Serta

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ENDS MONDAY 7 PM

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Serta Perfect Sleeper
London, Firm
You Can Flip & Use Either Side

TWIN SET...WAS $780 NOW $390
FULL SET....WAS $1010 NOW $505
QUEEN SET..WAS $1049 NOW $525
KING SET....WAS $1590 NOW $795

Serta Perfect Sleeper
Super Plush, Super Comfortable
You Can Flip & Use Either Side

TWIN SET....WAS $1019 NOW $507
FULL SET....WAS $1294 NOW $647
QUEEN SET..WAS $1454 NOW $727
KING SET....WAS $1814 NOW $907

CHIRO-GUARD MAJESTIC
2 SIDED NOT 1-SIDED
Firm Support, Plush Comfort, Excellent Quality

TWIN SET....WAS $699....NOW..... $533
FULL SET....WAS $915....NOW..... $698
QUEEN SET. WAS $1060..NOW..... $758
KING SET....WAS $1399..NOW.. $1098

TYPE	TWIN	FULL	QUEEN	KING
Serta **Sertapedic** For Those Who Want A 1 Sided Bed	$207 Set	$277 Set	$297 Set	N/A
MEDIUM FIRM SUPER BUY "GOOD VALUE FOR THE MONEY"	$268 Set	$368 Set	$398 Set	$648 Set
PLUSH VERY COMFORTABLE	$288 Set	$388 Set	$428 Set	$688 Set
Serta **Vera Wang** Latex Foam Bed, Very Comfortable	$750 Set	$820 Set	$850 Set	$1150 Set
Serta **Vera Wang** Visco, Memory Foam Bed	$1033 Set	$1233 Set	$1333 Set	$1663 Set

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Twin Mattress Medium Firm..$155
Full Mattress Semi Firm.....$144
Full Mattress Pillowtop.....$267
Terrific Buy Very Comfortable

Queen Mattress Medium Firm.....$224
Queen Mattress Cushion Firm.....$250
Queen Mattress Extra Firm.....$277
Better Quality

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Manufactured expressly to fit into a hardside waterbed. Allows one inch on all 4 sides for tucking sheets. Don't throw away your waterbed bedroom furniture because you don't like your waterbed mattress....

Medium Firm Good Quality	WAS	NOW
Super Single	$399.95	$278
Queen	$579.95	$414
King	$699.95	$532
Very Plush Very Good Quality	**WAS**	**NOW**
Super Single	$719.95	$488
Queen	$899.95	$633
King	$1199.95	$775

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TV & ENTERTAINMENT

Multi-tasking daughter driving toward disaster

Dear **ABBY**

DEAR ABBY: My daughter insists that she's a "multitasker" — too busy to telephone or text except when she's driving. It scares me to be in the passenger seat while she's talking on the phone or picking up toys the baby has dropped from his car seat.

I told her I won't talk to her while she's driving because I don't want to be a party to an accident she might be involved in, so she has stopped calling me altogether.

Don't these self-described multitaskers realize they are operating machines that can kill them or others while they shift their focus from the road? A man recently died in a head-on car crash as he crossed the interstate line. When the emergency vehicles arrived, his laptop was still running. What else can I say to my daughter when she doesn't "want to hear about it"? — **TERRIFIED MAMA IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR TERRIFIED: The statistics I have read indicate that drivers using cell phones have the same risk of being involved in an accident as people who have been drinking. It is sad that your daughter is so overscheduled that she feels she must do two things at once.

However, until your daughter is ready to sharpen her maternal instincts, grow up and stop being defensive, there is nothing you or anyone can say that will cut through the static. I am truly sorry.

DEAR ABBY: My twin sister, "Karina," and I will be seniors this year, and we're starting to look at colleges. It has always been "assumed" that Karina and I would attend the same college and be roommates. However, I think it's time for some separation. We're very close, and I would like us to attend the same college, but I think we should consider having different roommates.

Karina is hurt and upset that I don't want to continue sharing a room with her, pointing out that we've been "roommates" our entire lives and get along well, so why argue with success?

It has nothing to do with her. I just think it would be easier to expand our horizons if we're not just known as "the twins." We would still see each other often, and if things don't work out perhaps we can be roomies the following year.

My mother is shocked and thinks there's something wrong between us. I would appreciate another opinion. — **THE OTHER TWIN**

DEAR TWIN: Have a private talk with your mother and explain that as much as you love your sister, the time has come for both of you to explore your individuality.

While the concept may be foreign to her, what you are contemplating would be a healthy opportunity for both of you. As the daughter of an identical twin, I can assure you that some degree of separation will be healthy and give you both a chance to grow.

DEAR ABBY: I am not ugly, but I am very unphotogenic. I take terrible pictures. At family weddings, I know photos are necessary and I cooperate. But the rest of the time I do not want to be photographed. Isn't this my right?

How can I, without offending anyone, prevent people from taking my picture? And am I the only person who feels this way? — NO **PICTURES, PLEASE, KANSAS CITY, MO.**

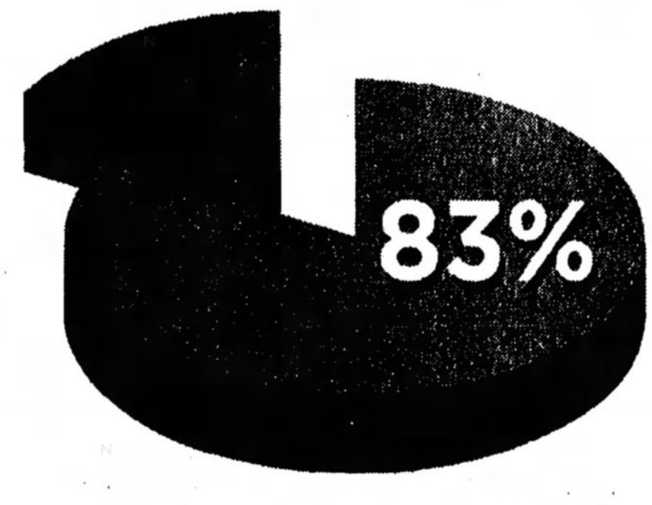
DEAR NO PICTURES, PLEASE: No, you aren't — and people who know you and care about your feelings should respect them and not insist. If the shooter is a stranger or a casual acquaintance, all you need to say is, "I prefer not to be photographed." And if you are pressed, say you're in the Witness Protection Program.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

FRIDAY EVENING — OCTOBER 30, 2009

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS	(2) KDKA-TV News at Six (7) News (10) WTAJ News at 6	(7) (10) CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	(2) CBS Evening News-Couric (7) Entertainment (10) Inside	(2) The Insider (N) (7) Inside Edition (N) (10) Two and a Half Men	Ghost Whisperer "Head Over Heels" The Headless Horseman haunts Melinda. (N)		Medium "Bite Me" Vivid nightmares insert Allison into scenes from "Night of the Living Dead." (N)		NUMB3RS "Dreamland" A woman's corpse turns up at a decommissioned air base. (N)		(2) KDKA-TV News at 11 (7) News (10) WTAJ News at 11 (23) News	(:35) Late Show With David Letterman Regis Philbin; Brian Regan; Weezer. (N)	(:37) The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Lauren Graham; Fruit Bats. (N)		(2) (:37) Extra (7) (:37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (:37) Paid Program	(2) (10) (:07) Paid Program	(2) (7) (:37) Paid Program (10) (:37) Cars.TV (N)
ABC (4) WTAE (23) WATM	(4) Action News at 6 (23) Deal No	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	(4) Inside Edition A "Baywatch" babe. (23) Jeopardy!	(4) Entertainment Tonight (23) Wheel of Fortune	Supernanny "Simmons Family" Pushover parents allow their two sets of twins to call the shots. (N)		Ugly Betty Betty decides to cover the worst jobs in New York; Daniel hires an inept assistant. (N)		20/20 (N)		(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (23) News	(:35) Nightline (N)	(12:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live Paris Hilton; Slipknot. (N)	(4) (:06) Oprah Winfrey (23) (:06) Paid Program	(23) (:35) RENO 911!	(4) (:06) Mayoral Debate (23) (:05) Paid Program	(23) (:35) Paid Program	
NBC (6) WJAC (9) WTOV (11) WPXI	(6) WJAC-TV News at 6 PM (N) (9) News (N) (11) Channel 11 News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight Chaz Bono's sex change. (9) (11) Jeopardy!	(6) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (9) (11) Wheel of Fortune	Law & Order "Human Flesh Search Engine" A murder victim's true identity leads detectives to a suspicious web site. (N)		Dateline NBC		The Jay Leno Show John Cusack; Frank Caliendo; Adam Carolla. (N)		(6) WJAC-TV News (9) Sports (11) Ch. 11 News	(6) (11) (:35) The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien Susie Essman; Alice in Chains. (N)	(6) (11) (:35) The Tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon Wanda Sykes; Josh Charles; The Amazing Kreskin; Andrew Bird. (N)	(6) (11) (:37) Late Night With Jimmy Fallon Wanda Sykes; Josh Charles; The Amazing Kreskin; Andrew Bird. (N)	(6) (11) (:36) Last Call With Carson Daly Masi Oka; The Doves. (N)	(6) (11) (:05) Poker After Dark (9) (:15) Poker After Dark (Joined in Progress)		
FOX (8) WWCP (53) WPGH	(8) Seinfeld (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) The Simpsons (53) My Name Is Earl	(8) That '70s Show (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) My Name Is Earl (53) Seinfeld	House "Broken" House goes through detox, hoping to stop the hallucinations. (PA)				(8) News (53) Channel 11 News	(8) (:35) My Name Is Earl	(8) (:05) Everybody Loves Raymond (53) Seinfeld	(8) (:35) Seinfeld (53) My Name Is Earl	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (53) Frasier	(53) Paid Program	(8) (:05) Paid Program (53) Paid Program	(8) (:35) Paid Program (53) Paid Program	(8) (:05) Paid Program (53) George Lopez	(8) Paid Prog (53) House of Payne
(13) WQED	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Nightly Business Report	Off Q	Washington Week (N)	NOW on PBS (N)	Bill Moyers Journal (N)		Original Intent: The Battle for America (DVS)		Charlie Rose (N)		Off Q	Smart Travels: Europe	Washington Week	NOW on PBS	Bill Moyers Journal	
(19) WPCW	The People's Court (N)		The Office "Halloween"	The Office	Smallville "Crossfire" (N)		America's Next Top Model "Let's Go Surfing"		10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Everybody-Raymond	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	King of the Hill	South Park "Pinkeye"	Paid Program	Paid Program	Roseanne "Boo!"
(22) WPMY	Simpsons	Family Guy	Simpsons	Family Guy	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N)				Law & Order: SVU		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Bernie Mac	My Wife	Half & Half	Half & Half
(40) WPCB	The 700 Club (N)		Focus 4		★ "Road to Redemption" (2001)			Second	In Touch-Dr		Nwswtch	The Place for Miracles		TV One Life	The Zone	The Drive TV	Youthbytes	Pure Passion
(59) WBGN	Punk'd	Sports Talk	Sports Talk		Eye Eye	RENO 911!	Laguna	RENO 911!	ReGenesis "Faint Hope"		Cheaters	Laguna	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	
A&E	CSI: Miami "Three-Way"		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds "Paradise"		CSI: Miami		(12:01) Criminal Minds		(:01) Criminal Minds		(:01) Criminal Minds	
ABCFAM	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Funniest Home Videos		★★ "Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed" (2004)		Funniest Home Videos		The 700 Club (N)			'70s Show	'70s Show		Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog
AMC	★ "Thirteen Ghosts" (2001) Tony Shalhoub.				★★★★ "Young Frankenstein" (1974) Gene Wilder, Peter Boyle.				★★ "The Amityville Horror" (1979) James Brolin, Margot Kidder.						★ "Thirteen Ghosts" (2001) Tony Shalhoub.			
ANPL	Night	Night	Real Spiderman		Mr. and Mrs. Wolfman		I'm Alive "Gold" (N)		Pit Bulls and Parolees		I'm Alive "Gold"		Mr. and Mrs. Wolfman		Pit Bulls and Parolees		Real Spiderman	
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen		BBC World News America		Top Gear		Friday Night		BBC World News America		Top Gear		Friday Night		Top Gear		Friday Night	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live "Freestyle Friday." (N)				Pay It Off		Pay It Off		Pay It Off (N)		The Mo'Nique Show (N)		The Wendy Williams Show		Steve Harvey: Still Trippin' Stand-up routine.			
BRAVO	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		★★★ "Sleepless in Seattle" (1993) Tom Hanks. Premiere.					★★★ "Sleepless in Seattle" (1993) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan.					"The Nutty Professor"	
CMT	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition				Smarter	Smarter	Road Pranks	Cribs	Invitation Only		Smarter	Smarter	★★★ "The Longest Yard" (1974) Burt Reynolds.				Road Pranks	Cribs
CNBC	Mad Money Norman, Okla.		Kudlow Report		Fast Money	Options	The Suze Orman Show		American Greed		Mad Money Norman, Okla.		The Suze Orman Show		American Greed		Foreclosure	Paid Prog
CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360	
COM	RENO 911!	Tosh.0	Daily Show	Colbert	Scrubs	Scrubs	Presents	Presents	Nick Swardson		Live at Gotham (N)		Amazing Jonathan		Burned: Roasts		★★ "Eddie Murphy Raw"	
CSPAN	House		Tonight From Washington								Capital News Today						Today in Washington	
DISC	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	Dirty Jobs		Dirty Jobs		Lobstermen		Lobstermen (N)		Dirty Jobs		Lobstermen		Lobstermen		Cash Cab	Cash Cab
DISNEY	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Suite Life	Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Wizards	Montana	Phineas-Ferb	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Cory	Replace	Kim Possible	Emperor	Dragon
E!	Shocking Unsolved Crimes		E! News (N)	The Daily 10	Lamas	Dating 2	Girls	Girls	The Soup (N)	The Soup	Chelsea	E! News	Chelsea	The Soup	12 Sexiest Hollywood Jobs		Girls	Chelsea
ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)			NBA	NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Boston Celtics. (Live)					NBA Basketball	Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Lakers. (Live)				SportsCenter (Live)		SportsCenter (Live)	
ESPNC	College Football		Classic Wide World-Sports		Boxing		SportsCentury		SportsCentury		Ringside						Boxing	
ESPN2	Horn	Interruption	NFL Live	Football Live	College Football West Virginia at South Florida. (Live)						SportsCenter (Live)		Baseball	NFL Live (N)	NASCAR		NBA Basketball Bulls at Celtics	
EWTN	Church-Poor	Called	Daily Mass: Our Lady		The World Over		Crossing	Holy Rosary	Defending	St Josemaría	Rome	Bookmark	Daily Mass: Our Lady		The World Over		Catholic	Defending
FNC	Special Report		FOX Report-Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (N)		Hannity (N)		On the Record		The O'Reilly Factor		Hannity		On the Record		Glenn Beck	
FOOD	Cooking	Minute	Challenge "Big City Cakes"		Chopped		Diners	Diners	Chefs vs. City Los Angeles.		The Secret Life Of...		Diners	Diners	Chefs vs. City Los Angeles.		The Secret Life Of...	
FSN	Penguins Faceoff (Live)		NHL Hockey Pittsburgh Penguins at Columbus Blue Jackets. (Live)					Penguins	In My Words	Final Score	NHL Hockey: Penguins at Blue Jackets				Final Score	Best Damn Top 50 Special	Final Score	
FX	★ "Ghost Ship" (2002) Julianna Margulies, Ron Eldard.				★ "The Invisible" (2007) Justin Chatwin. Premiere.				'70s Show	'70s Show	Sons of Anarchy "Potlatch"		★ "The Invisible" (2007, Suspense) Justin Chatwin.				Paid Prog	Paid Prog
GOLF	PGA Tour Golf: Champions		Golf Central	PGA Tour Golf	Viking Classic -- Second Round.			PGA Tour Golf	Champions		European PGA Tour Golf Barclays Singapore Open -- Third Round. (Live)							
GSN	Newlywed	Catch 21	Deal or No Deal		Family Feud	Family Feud	Newlywed	Catch 21	Millionaire	Lingo	Deal or No Deal		Be a Millionaire		Jeopardy!	Hollywood	Pyramid	Pyramid
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Halloween on Ice From Omaha, Neb.				Touched by an Angel		Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Cheers	Cheers
HGTV	Halloween Block Party		House	House	Property	Property	House	Bang, Buck	House	House	Unsellable	First Place	House	Bang, Buck	House	House	Unsellable	First Place
HIST	Haunted History-Halloween		Modern Marvels		Modern Marvels Chocolate.		Modern Marvels		Modern Marvels		Modern Marvels "Candy"		(12:01) Modern Marvels		(:01) Modern Marvels		(:01) Modern Marvels	
LIFE	Medium "The Devil Inside"		Medium (Part 2 of 2)		DietTribe "Greatest Fears"		Project Runway		Project Runway		Models	Will & Grace	Frasier	Medium		Medium "In the Rough"		Paid Prog
MSNBC	The Ed Show		Hardball		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show		Countdown-Olbermann		The Rachel Maddow Show		Caught on Camera		Caught on Camera		Lockup "Riverbend"	
MTV	Disaster	Parental	"My Super Psycho Sweet Sixteen" (2009) Julianna Guill.		Ulalume: Howling				★★★ "Scream 3" (2000, Horror) David Arquette, Neve Campbell.						Ulalume: Howling		★ "Halloween: Resurrection" (2002)	
NICK	iCarly	The Troop	iCarly	SpongeBob	The Troop	The Troop	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Nanny	Roseanne	Roseanne
OXY	(5:00) ★★ "The Bodyguard" (1992)		★★★ "Panic Room" (2002, Suspense) Jodie Foster, Forest Whitaker.						★★★ "Panic Room" (2002, Suspense) Jodie Foster, Forest Whitaker.						★★ "The Bodyguard" (1992) Kevin Costner, Whitney Houston.			
PCN	PCN Tours	PCN Tours	High School Football Bishop McDevitt vs. State College. (Live)					High School Football	Bishop McDevitt vs. State College. (Taped)				PCN Tours		PCN Profiles		Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	Pittsburgh Now		News	Ch Batch	NightTalk: Get to the Point		PCNC News		NightTalk		Pittsburgh	Fedko Fone	PCNC News	PCNC News		Paid Prog.	NightTalk	
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		★★★ "Forrest Gump" (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise.						★★★ "Forrest Gump" (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise.						"Blood Angels" (2005, Horror) Siri Baruc, Leah Cairns.			
SYFY	Final Dest. 2		★★★ "Interview With the Vampire" (1994, Horror) Tom Cruise.		Stargate Universe "Water"				Sanctuary "Hero" (N)		Stargate Universe "Water"		Sanctuary "Hero"		"Pumpkinhead: Ashes to Ashes" (2006) Doug Bradley			
TBS	Seinfeld	The Office	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Family Guy	Family Guy	★★ "Failure to Launch" (2006, Romance-Comedy)				(:10) ★★ "Just Friends" (2005) Ryan Reynolds.				(:10) ★★★ "Election" (1999) Matthew Broderick.			
TCM	Devil	(:45) ★★★ "Isle of the Dead" (1945)			★★★ "Gaslight" (1944) Charles Boyer. (DVS)				★★★ "Night Must Fall" (1937) Robert Montgomery.				★★★★ "Psycho" (1960) Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh.				★ "Zaat" (1972, Horror)	
TLC	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Gown Crazy "Pilot"		Dress	Dress	Gown Crazy "Pilot"		Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress
TNT	Law & Order "Cut"		Bones		Bones		★★★ "Air Force One" (1997) Harrison Ford, Gary Oldman.						★★★ "The Fugitive" (1993) Harrison Ford, Tommy Lee Jones.				★★★ "The Pelican Brief"	
TOON	Scary Godmother: Revenge		"Scooby-Doo! The Mystery Begins" (2009) Kate Melton		The Othersiders Alcatraz.				King of Hill	King of Hill	Chicken	Amer Dad	The Office	Squidbillies	Stroker-Hoop	Assy McGee	King of Hill	King of Hill
TRAVEL	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures Live! Paranormal Investigation at the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum. (Live)													
TRUTV	Wildest Police Videos		Cops	Cops	World's Wildest		Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	World's Wildest		Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic
TVLAND	All in Family	All in Family	Sanford	Sanford	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	★★★ "Private Benjamin" (1980) Goldie Hawn, Eileen Brennan.				Roseanne		Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Cosby Show	Cosby Show
USA	NCIS "Family Secret"		NCIS "Hung Out to Dry"		NCIS "Sea Dog"		Monk (N)		White Collar "Threads" (N)		Burn Notice				Monk		White Collar "Threads"	
VH1	★★ "The Jacksons: An American Dream" (1992, Drama) Lawrence-Hilton Jacobs. Story of the show-business family features 38 songs.										(:05) Real Chance of Love				★★★ "Tupac: Resurrection" (2003, Documentary)			
VS.	Hunting TV	Outdoor	Dangerous	Dangerous	Whitetail	Bucks	Bull Riding PBR Built Ford Tough World Finals. From Las Vegas. (Live)				Sports Soup		Bull Riding PBR Built Ford Tough World Finals. From Las Vegas.					Sports Soup
WE	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Ghost Whisperer		★★★ "The Wedding Singer" (1998) Adam Sandler.				My Fair Wedding		My Fair Wedding		Bridezillas		Ghost Whisperer		My Fair Wedding	
WGN	Munsters	Munsters	Munsters	Munsters	Munsters	Munsters	Munsters	Munsters	Munsters	Munsters	Munsters	Munsters	South Park	South Park	Star Trek: Next Gener.		The Bob & Tom Show	
ENC	Batman	(:20) ★★ "Next Friday" (2000) Ice Cube.			★★ "Final Destination" (2000)			(:40) ★★ "From Dusk Till Dawn" (1996) Harvey Keitel.			★★ "The Craft" (1996) Robin Tunney.				(:15) ★★ "30 Days of Night" (2007) Josh Hartnett.			
HBO	(5:30) ★★★ "Apollo 13" (1995) Tom Hanks.				★★ "Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem"			Amelia: 1st	★★ "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor"			Bored	24/7	Cathouse	(:35) ★★★ "Forgetting Sarah Marshall"			
MAX	The Wash	(:45) ★★★ "Under Siege" (1992) Steven Seagal.				★ "Joe Dirt" (2001) David Spade.			★ "Jumper" (2008) Hayden Christensen.		Life on Top	"Alien Sex Files 3: She Alien" (2009)			★★ "CB4" (1993) Chris Rock.			
SHOW	(5:30) "The Cake Eaters"		Inside the NFL (iTV)		Nurse Jackie	Weeds (iTV)	Californ	Californ	Dexter "Dirty Harry" (iTV)		Inside the NFL (iTV)		Lock 'n Load	★★★ "3:10 to Yuma" (2007) Russell Crowe. ITV.			Into the Wild	
STARZ	Mummy	★★ "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" (2008)			(:28) ★★ "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" (2009)				Crash (N)		★★ "The Mummy Returns" (2001) Brendan Fraser.				(:15) Crash		(:10) "Never Back Down"	
TMC	(4:50) Shade	(:35) ★★ "Love and Other Disasters"			(:05) ★★ "The Nanny Diaries" (2007, Comedy)				★★★ "Lars and the Real Girl" (2007) Ryan Gosling.				(11:50) ★★ "King of the Ants" (2003)		(:35) "Insatiable Obsession" (2006)			

HOTFACTS by YAHOO! hotjobs



of new grads say **benefits** are their top priority in accepting a job.

Source: Yahoo! HotJobs college survey, May 2007

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NEWS

Production of flu vaccines delayed

Issues with growing H1N1 strain led to delays,

By LUIS FABREGAS
For The Valley Independent
lfabregas@tribweb.com

Despite assurances by the federal government that more swine flu vaccines will be available quickly, state health officials on Thursday expressed worries and expect Pennsylvania's supply to be about 1 million doses short.

"I think all of us are frustrated that there isn't more available vaccine as we would like to see available," state Physician General Stephen Ostroff said during a news briefing in Harrisburg. "We are doing the best we can with the doses that are available."

The shortage of the vaccine, now as widespread as the flu virus itself, has raised questions about the government's response and its vaccine distribution plan. Parents and doctors scrambled to get vaccinations for those more likely to contract the virus.

State officials said they are at the mercy of the federal government, which allocated 24.8 million doses of the vaccine based on state populations. Pennsylvania, which is allocated 4 percent of the available vaccine supply, received 788,600 doses.

Officials project Pennsylvania will receive 6 million doses by mid-January, about 1 million short of the 7 million doses schools, doctors, hospitals, clinics and other groups requested.

Those projections, however, are based on the ability of manufacturers to make vaccine. Four of five companies making two versions of the vaccine — a flu shot with a killed virus and a nasal spray with a weakened live virus — experienced problems growing the virus strains the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supplied.

The companies use a 50-year-old system to grow the strain on fertilized chicken eggs, a process that more efficient technology could replace, vaccine experts say.

"We have to focus on this idea that there are better ways of making flu vaccines," said Andrew Pekosz, a vaccine expert and associate professor of molecular biology and immunology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "We have to have a way of making a vaccine faster so that we can immunize in particular the high-risk groups."

Donna Cary, a spokeswoman for Sanofi-Aventis, one of the largest vaccine makers contracted by the government, said the company did not overpromise its ability to produce 75 million doses of the vaccine.

"We are on target to provide all of the doses by the end of the year," she said.

When producing vaccines for new strains of influenza, as in the case of H1N1 that authorities identified in April, eggs sometimes produce low yields, Pekosz said. So it is common to experience delays using the current production system, which requires lengthy purification and testing phases.

The Government Accountability Office warned of these delays in an October 2007 report, which singled out vaccine issues during the 2000 and 2004 flu seasons. The report called the vaccine manufacturing process inflexible and said difficulties growing virus strains can affect all manufacturers.

To address these difficulties, the government could opt for technologies such as those that use protein or DNA instead of eggs to make vaccines, Pekosz said. This technology, which a New Jersey company is testing, could produce vaccines more cheaply but could take years to implement, he said.

Delays also were caused by the government's decision not to use so-called adjuvanted vaccines, said Dr. Peter J. Hotez, distinguished research professor at George Washington University and president of the Sabin Vaccine Institute in Washington.

The adjuvanted vaccines contain larger amounts of thimerosal, a form of mercury, but allow smaller amounts of the active vaccine ingredient to be used in each dose.

"That may turn out to be one of the most important decisions that (the government) made, to use non-adjuvant vaccines," Hotez said. "But we have a strong anti-vaccine lobby in this country." Some people fear that using mercury in vaccines could be harmful to children and pregnant women.

Dr. Michael Huff, the state's deputy health secretary, said the doses Pennsylvania received so far were "fairly evenly distributed" across six regions. The H1N1 virus — an illness characterized by fever, sore throat, cough and body aches — is widespread in all parts of the state. The southwest region that includes Pittsburgh was particularly hard hit.

Tracking how flu evolves

From season to season, it undergoes subtle shape-shifting.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Vaccinating more children might help slow the evolution of the constantly changing flu virus, government scientists reported Thursday.

Influenza is a mighty mutator. Sometimes it makes big changes that result in never-before-seen strains, like this year's swine flu. But from season to season, it undergoes subtle shape-shifting, which is the reason people need a new winter flu vaccine every year.

This regular shift is what's called antigenic drift. Think of influenza as wearing a coat, a protein on the virus' surface — the "H" in the family flu names, for hemagglutinin — that is the major factor in triggering the immune system to mount an attack. Slight changes in the appearance of that coat can be enough to confuse your immune system and allow infection.

But just how do those changes happen? National Institutes of Health researchers infected lots of mice — vaccinated and unvaccinated ones — to watch that evolution in action. They report in the journal Science that influenza responds to immune pressure, a discovery that supports today's vaccine policy urging more children to get their flu shots each fall.

Even a vaccine that isn't a perfect match to the virus may provide some protection and limit the scope of changes in the virus.

"We're giving the virus more wiggle room, more evolutionary space, by having some naive individuals," explained lead researcher Dr. Jonathan Yewdell of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. To scientists, "naive" means the previously unexposed.

Even a vaccine that isn't a perfect match to the virus may provide some protection and limit the scope of changes in the virus.

Yewdell's team took an old strain of seasonal H1N1 flu that circulated decades ago and infected groups of mice. After each infection, they culled virus from mouse lungs and used that to infect more sets of mice. After nine such cycles, they checked the hemagglutinin gene for mutations. Unvaccinated mice had none. In vaccinated mice, the virus had mutated to become stickier — it changed the way it binds to cells to clamp on more tightly, which helps it evade an attack from immune cells called antibodies.

But that's a big tradeoff: A stickier virus doesn't spread as easily, Yewdell said.

Then the team took the new sticky mutant and infected more unvaccinated mice with it — and here's the surprise: The virus mutated back into a less sticky, easier-to-spread version.

That's why there are implications for people, because children who haven't yet caught or been vaccinated against many flu strains would offer a similar opportunity for mutation to easier-to-spread versions.

"We want to box flu in as much as we can," Yewdell said. "With more antibody pressure (from vaccinated people), it's got to bind tighter and the virus is not so happy."

In a separate study published in Science, a team led by University of Georgia researchers examined ponies vaccinated against equine influenza to determine how much antigenic drift it takes to outwit a particular year's flu vaccine. It's a model that scientists might use to track a worsening outbreak. The take-home message: If enough of a population is vaccinated, even an imperfect vaccine can provide some benefit.

Associated Press

Emma Siegel, 6, receives the swine flu vaccine from from a Montgomery County Health Department worker as her dad, Keith Siegel, holds her Thursday at Congregation Beth Or in Maple Glen, Pa.

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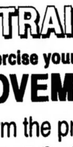
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NEWS

Top court dismisses tainted convictions

Cases were handled by a disgraced judge who accepted kickbacks.

By The Associated Press

ALLENTOWN — The Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed thousands of juvenile convictions issued by a judge charged in a corruption scandal, saying that none of the young offenders got a fair hearing.

The high court threw out more than five years' worth of juvenile cases heard by disgraced former Luzerne County Judge Mark Ciavarella, who is charged with accepting millions of dollars in kickbacks to send youths to private detention centers.

The Philadelphia-based Juvenile Law Center, which represents some of the youths, said the court's order covers as many as 6,500 cases. The justices barred any possibility of retrial in all but a fraction of them.

"This is exactly the relief these kids needed," said Marsha Levick, the center's legal director. "It's the most serious judicial corruption scandal in our history and the court took an extraordinary step in addressing it."

Children routinely appeared in front of Ciavarella without lawyers for hearings that lasted only a few minutes.

Ciavarella also failed to question young defendants to make sure they fully understood the consequences of waiving counsel and pleading guilty, showing "complete disregard for the constitutional rights of the juveniles," the Supreme Court said.

After being found delinquent, the youths were often shackled and taken to private jails whose owner was paying bribes to the judge. Federal prosecutors have said that Ciavarella and another Luzerne County judge, Michael Conahan, took a total of $2.8 million in payoffs.

Associated Press

In this Sept. 15 file photo, former Luzerne County Judge Mark Ciavarella arrives at the Federal Building in Scranton. The state Supreme Court on Thursday threw out more than five years' worth of cases heard by Ciavarella. He is charged with accepting millions of dollars in kickbacks to send youths to private detention centers.

"Ciavarella's admission that he received these payments, and that he failed to disclose his financial interests arising from the development of the juvenile facilities, thoroughly undermines the integrity of all juvenile proceedings before Ciavarella," the Supreme Court said.

The judges pleaded guilty in February to honest services fraud and tax evasion in a deal with prosecutors that called for a sentence of 87 months in prison. But the deal was rejected in August by Senior U.S. District Judge Edward M. Kosik, who said the two hadn't fully accepted responsibility for the crimes, and the ex-judges switched their pleas to not guilty.

A federal grand jury then returned a 48-count racketeering indictment against the judges, who await trial.

The Supreme Court had previously overturned hundreds of juvenile convictions involving low-level offenses. Thursday's ruling covered all cases heard by Ciavarella between 2003 and 2008, including ones involving more serious crimes.

"We fully agree that, given the nature and extent of the taint, this Court simply cannot have confidence that any juvenile matter adjudicated by Ciavarella during this period was tried in a fair and impartial manner," the court wrote.

Prosecutors in Luzerne County had agreed that none of the convictions should stand, but they wanted the right to bring dangerous offenders back into court for retrials.

Penn State students, frats charged in student's death

Charges climax probe into the death of an 18-year-old freshman who fell onto a concrete stairwell after a night of drinking.

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press Writer

STATE COLLEGE — Police charged two Penn State fraternities and two students with misdemeanors Thursday in connection with the death of an 18-year-old freshman who fell onto a concrete stairwell after a night of drinking.

University and State College police charged the Alpha Tau Omega and Phi Gamma Delta fraternities each with one count of selling or furnishing alcohol to minors and one count each of unlawful acts relative to alcohol.

Joseph Dado, of Latrobe, was found dead Sept. 21 about 75 yards from Phi Gamma Delta. An autopsy revealed Dado's blood alcohol level was .169, which is more than twice the legal limit for a 21-year-old to drive.

Facing the same charges are Jennifer Clifford, 21, of Gibsonia, who authorities said bought vodka for Dado and Clifford's underage sister earlier in the weekend; and John Townsend, 21, who authorities said hosted Dado and his friends in his room at the Phi Gamma Delta house. Townsend and Dado were friends from home and had attended the same high school.

"Both police agencies have concluded that excessive consumption of alcohol played a major role in this tragic incident," the police departments said in a joint statement.

The defendants were to be mailed the charges by summons. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Dec. 2.

Dado's death has affected administrators and some students on a campus that has developed a reputation among college students for its social scene and football tailgating weekends. The annual Princeton Review survey ranked Penn State the nation's No. 1 party school this year.

Authorities laid out this timeline in charging documents:

Clifford bought vodka for Dado on Sept. 18. Dado and several underage friends were drinking vodka at Dado's dorm room early the night of Sept. 19.

The group left Dado's room and arrived at Alpha Tau Omega after midnight on Sept. 20. They left about an hour later, stopping at the apartment of Dado's sister before arriving at Phi Gamma Delta.

Dado's three friends left about an hour later, leaving Dado behind after Dado had texted them that was staying longer.

The friends realized the next morning that Dado had not returned home and called Townsend, who told them the freshman had left the fraternity about 3:30 a.m. on Sept. 20. According to police, Dado refused an offer from Townsend to stay at the house.

Authorities searched the campus and surrounding neighborhood before maintenance workers found the body the following afternoon at the bottom of the stairwell. The Centre County coroner ruled Dado died of head trauma.

The fraternities referred calls to their respective national organizations. Wynn Smiley, CEO of the Indianapolis-based Alpha Tau Omega national organization, said he hadn't seen the charges.

"We are certainly investigating. We don't believe any of our members did anything wrong at this point," Smiley said.

Bill Martin, executive director of the Phi Gamma Delta national organization in Lexington, Ky., said his office had seen a news release but not the charges and declined to comment on the local chapter's behalf.

In a statement, Townsend's attorney, Andrew Shubin, said his client was "enormously saddened by what happened ... and wishes he had done things differently that night."

Shubin said the last month has been the "toughest and saddest period of (Townsend's) life ... and believes deeply that this incident should be an important teaching moment for the rest of the Penn State community."

Clifford could not immediately be reached for comment, and it was unclear if she had an attorney. A phone number for an address for Clifford in Gibsonia was not listed.

Dado's father, Joseph Dado Sr., declined to comment.

First Niagara optimistic about area

By THOMAS OLSON
For The Valley Independent
tolson@tribweb.com

The expense of acquiring 57 branches around Pittsburgh in September pushed First Niagara Financial Group's quarterly earnings lower Thursday, but the business already is providing dividends to the market's newest bank.

Since closing the branch deal on Sept. 8, First Niagara has originated about $100 million in consumer and small-business loans in western Pennsylvania and taken applications for about $100 million more, bank executives told analysts in a conference call.

"We couldn't be more pleased from what we've seen in Pittsburgh so far, 45 days after closing" the deal, said First Niagara CEO John Koelmel.

The bank acquired 57 National City branches from PNC Financial Services Group, which sold them to satisfy antitrust regulators after buying the Cleveland-based bank. First Niagara also acquired about $750 million in loans and more than $3.9 billion in deposits.

Of those deposits formerly held by National City, 98 percent flowed to First Niagara, a high retention rate in bank merger deals. Usually, customers of the acquired bank "run off" with about 10 percent of the deposits and transfer them to another institution, analysts say.

The 2 percent runoff was "exceptional," and far less than First Niagara originally projected, said Damon DelMonte, an analyst with Keefe Bruyette & Woods, Hartford, Conn.

DelMonte called the bank's deposit retention and the $100 million in loan originations "a positive response to the First Niagara name in that short a period of time."

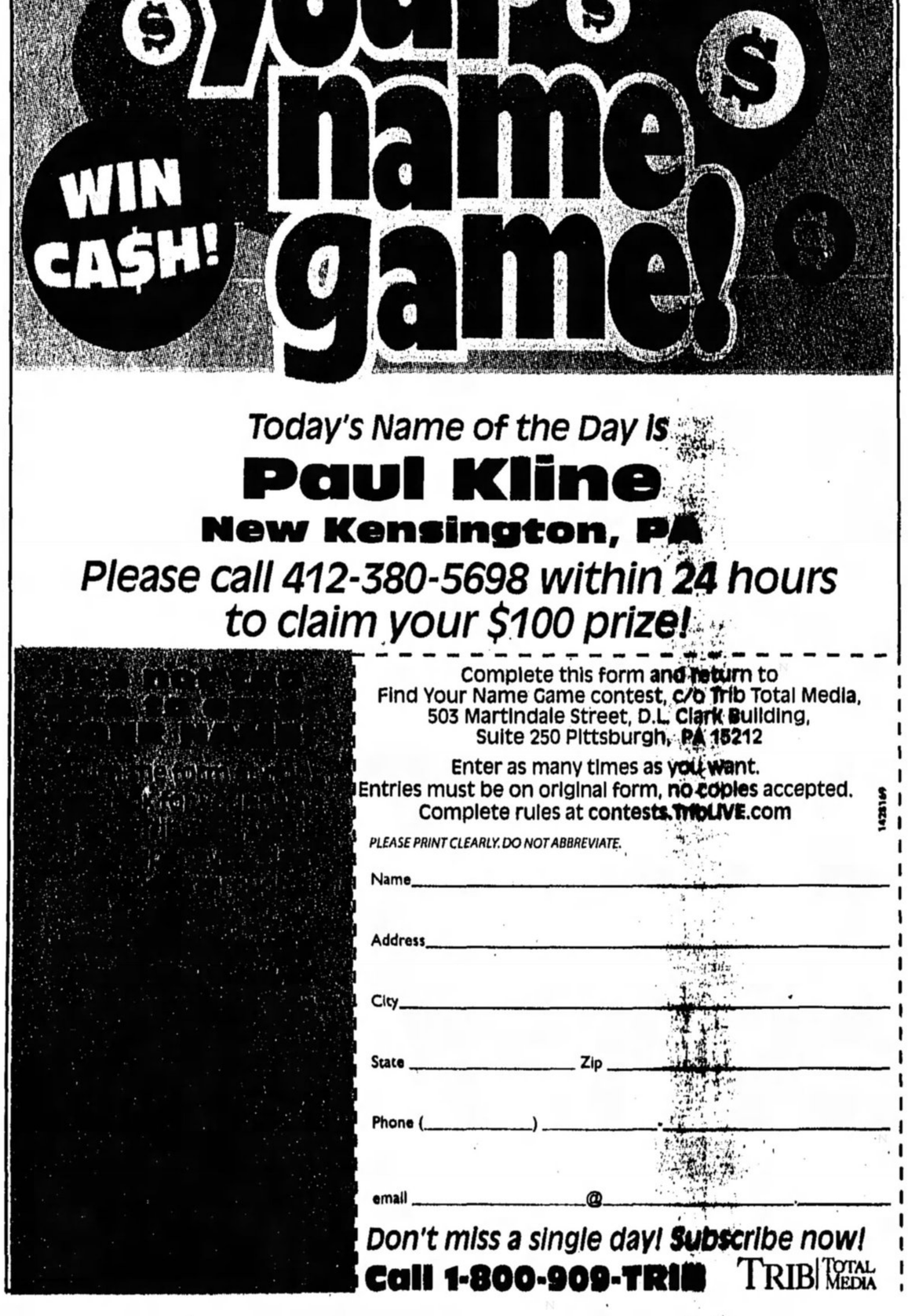
First Niagara reported quarterly net income fell to $10.9 million from $23.7 million a year earlier, reflecting one-time merger costs. Results include a charge of $16.4 million after taxes from acquiring the 57 branches and a pending acquisition of Harleysville National Corp., a bank in eastern Pennsylvania.

The results equaled 7 cents per share, vs. 22 cents a year ago. Excluding the special charges, operating results were 19 cents per share, compared with 22 cents a year ago.

Net interest income jumped to $99 million from $70 million.

First Niagara shares closed at $13.28, down 2 cents.

Nonperforming loans increased to $66.8 million from $52.3 million a year ago.



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Yankees get even

A.J. Burnett shut down the Phillies, 3-1, in the second game of the World Series. **3B**

Valley SPORTS

Lions prep for stretch run

After drilling rival Michigan on Saturday, Penn State's players received a rare day off on Monday to rest up for the final four games of the season. **2B**

N. Carolina shocker

The Tar Heels knocked off 14th ranked Virginia Tech on Casey Barth's 21-yard field goal on the game's final play. **3B**

Sports Trivia

Joe Montana owns the NFL's fourth best single-season passer rating at 112.4 in 1989. Who are the three quarterbacks ahead of him? **3B**

Last night's games

New Jersey 2, Boston 1
Washington 4, Atlanta 3
Tampa Bay 5, Ottawa 2
Phoenix 2, St. Louis 0
Nashville 2, Chicago 0
Edmonton 6, Detroit 5, SO

Leps, Rams make noise

After low pre-season predictions, BVA is in playoffs while Ringgold eyes berth.

By BRIAN HERMAN
Sports Editor
bherman@tribweb.com

Before the season started, Belle Vernon Area was picked to finish last in the Big 7 Conference with Ringgold sixth.

Entering tonight's regular season finales, the Leps and Rams are doing their best to make the conference's coaches look bad.

BVA (4-4, 2-3) , which hosts Elizabeth Forward (4-4, 1-4) , has already locked up a playoff spot.

And Ringgold (3-5, 1-4) can pick up its post-season ticket with a victory at Trinity (3-5, 2-3).

Aaron Krepps, BVA's first-year coach, isn't surprised by the Leps' showing.

"The coaches were basing things from last year," said Krepps.

"I'm happy with the way we're progressing," he went on. "We've gotten better each week. I've been telling our boys they're a good team and I think last week's game reassured everything the coaches have been preaching."

Krepps was referring to a 26-20 loss at Thomas Jefferson, the state's top-ranked Class AAA team.

Before giving the Jaguars their toughest game of the season, the Leps had ended a three-game skid with Big 7 victories over Trinity (21-6) and Ringgold (21-13).

After getting blown out by Chartiers Valley's Wayne Capers in a 41-21 setback, the Leps were one-point losers to Keystone champion Greensburg Salem (20-19) and West Mifflin (14-13).

Junior tailback Matt Green has been the Leps' big offensive weapon with 994 yards and nine touchdowns.

Senior quarterback Brandon Dilmore came up big against TJ throwing for 141 yards and three touchdowns against a defense which hadn't been scored on in its three previous games.

Elizabeth Forward, which knocked BVA out of the playoffs last year, is eyeing its second straight five-win season.

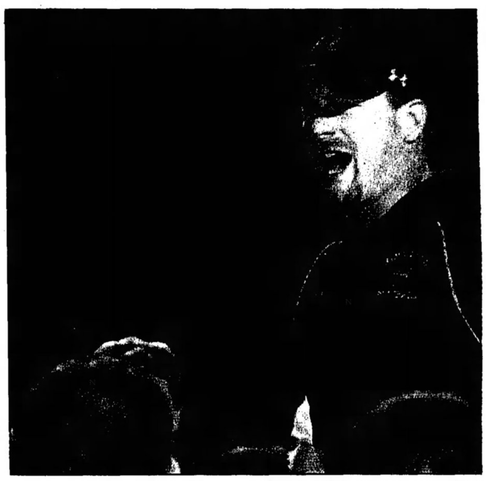
Converted running back Josh Pomilio will be at quarterback for the Warriors, who are coming off a 31-17 loss to Chartiers Valley.

Pomilio ran for a team-high 99 yards on 14 carries against the Colts.

"He runs well," said Krepps.

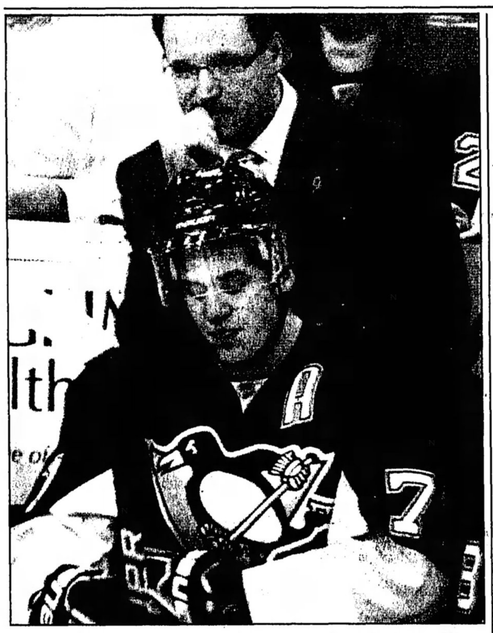
To go with Pomilio in the Warriors' backfield, Elizabeth has 250 pound fullback Greg

(See NOISE, Page 4B)



Brittany Carroll/For The Valley Independent

Ringgold rookie coach Lloyd Price has the Rams one win away from reaching the WPIAL playoffs.



Evgeni Malkin will sit out two weeks of play with a shoulder injury.

Pens put Malkin on shelf for two weeks with sore shoulder

NHL scoring champ opts to sit out after meeting with coach Dan Bylsma.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — NHL scoring champion Evgeni Malkin will be lost to the Pittsburgh Penguins for two to three weeks because of a strained right shoulder.

Malkin had been attempting to play through the injury, but coach Dan Bylsma said the team decided to rest the center. The Russian star would miss seven games if he is out two weeks and 10 games if he is out three.

"He strained his shoulder about 10 days or so ago," Bylsma said on Thursday. "I don't know the exact day. It is precautionary for the player. We are worried about the safety of the shoulder. A couple of weeks of rest and rehab will get that thing healthy."

The injury will end Malkin's streak of 254 consecutive regular-season games played. The Penguins play tonight at Columbus.

"It's early in the season. It's fine," Malkin said. "I feel good. It's not a big problem."

Malkin is tied with Sidney Crosby for the team lead in scoring with 14 points — four goals and 10 assists in 12 games. Malkin had one assist during a 6-1 victory over Montreal on Wednesday night, Pittsburgh's eighth win in nine games.

Last season, Malkin was the MVP of the playoffs, getting 14 goals and 22 assists in 24 playoff games while helping the Penguins win the Stanley Cup. He edged Washington's Alex Ovechkin 113-110 for the regular-season scoring title.

Penguins forward Tyler Kennedy won't play in Columbus due to an undisclosed injury that also kept him out of the Montreal game. Kennedy has scored five goals.

The new on Malkin follows a steady trail of injuries that have zapped the Penguins since the start of the season.

First Max Talbot was hurt and has yet to play. Then Sergei Gonchar went down, followed by Kennedy.

With all the injuries, the Pens are still10-2.

Cal's Walker eyes record

By BRIAN HERMAN
Sports Editor
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Talk about California University's red-hot football team, which hosts Mercyhurst Saturday at 3:30 p.m., and the names that keep popping up are Josh Portis and AJ Jackson.

It's understandable considering Portis and Jackson make up one of the country's top passing acts.

Portis shares the PSAC lead with 21 touchdown passes and is No. 2 in passer rating at 149.4, behind Edinboro's Trevor Harris' 149.7.

Jackson, meanwhile, has caught a conference-high 11 touchdown passes and his 55 receptions for 807 yards is second only to Clarion's Jacques Robinson (56 catches for 650 yards).

While Portis and Jackson lead the conference's highest scoring team which is averaging 35 points, senior tackle Willie Walker has quietly been leading the PSAC's second-ranked defense.

Walker may be only the Vulcans' eighth leading tackler with 31 including 17 solos but those numbers don't tell the real story.

A 6-3, 250-pounder from Aliquippa, Walker is closing in on a school record. His 29 1/2 career tackles for loss is 1 1/2 shy of the mark set by Jim Lukacs in 2001.

Walker's performance in a Cal uniform since his freshman campaign hasn't surprised Vulcan coach John Luckhardt.

"He was an outstanding player in high school and his playing level has gone up here," said Luckhardt. "He plays so hard all the time and is an outstanding leader.

"He's one of the guys who brought us back from the edge at the beginning of the season," he went on. "He's extremely quick and difficult to block one on one.'

Despite Mercyhurst's overall 4-5 record, Luckhardt feels the Lakers will be a good tuneup for next week's PSAC championship game.

"They're a very physical team," he said. "Most of their games have been close and they like to go with a ball control offense."

Mercyhurst's two running backs, Gerald Anderson(463)

(See WALKER, Page 4B)

Cal U. tackle Willie Walker, left, is nearing a school record of tackles for losses.

Cal women, men among West favorites

By BRIAN HERMAN
Sports Editor
bherman@tribweb.com

Other than being California University's current two head basketball coaches, Bill Brown and Mark Swasey, didn't have much in common last season.

In his 13th campaign, Brown had to look back on his worst year as the Vulcans went 13-13 including a disappointing 6-8 PSAC West record and missing the playoffs.

Swasey, on the other hand, took the Franklin Pierce women to a school-best 29-6 mark including the NCAA Division II championship game before leaving the New Hampshire school to replace Heather Kearney at Cal.

If the PSAC West coaches are right, Brown will return to his winning ways and Swasey will guide another championship team.

The Cal men are picked to finish second to nationally-ranked Indiana while the Cal women are tabbed to win the West for the seventh time in 10 years.

Swasey

Brown wasn't surprised his team was picked so high after last year's dismal showing following an NCAA Elite Eight appearance in 2008.

"It has more to do with history over the years," said Brown. "And coaches don't want the monkey on their back."

"We know Indiana is loaded but our goal is not to finish second," he went on. "We want to play for the championship."

Brown is optimistic the Vulcans can turn things around.

"I wasn't comfortable with our team all year," he said. "Two years ago we overachieved. We didn't have a dunk the entire season and made the Elite Eight. They played under the rim and the wide bodies played together.

"Last year the players never came together and had different agendas. During the off-season I dealt with each individual's role so there would be no gray areas, I know what I'm expecting and the key will be if they accept their roles."

Brown feels there will be a definite upgrade.

"Injuries and a lack of depth hurt us last year," he said. "We've filled a lot of voids because we wanted to improve depth and bring in more size and strengthen point guard.

"We've added three impact players in Travis Williams, Andrew Young and Rashawd Hatten. Williams may be Cal's best point guard since Candice Pickens and Young could be our leading scorer and rebounder. Hatten was 6-2 in high school at Clairton and is now 6-7. He gives us flexibility."

Cal's top returnee is 6-7 sophomore Kelsey Williams, who's on the pre-season all-conference team.

Other holdovers include seniors Jerial Nixon and Chris Moore , junior Joe Berenato and

(See CAL, Page 4B)

The Valley Independent — Tribune Total Media

College Gridiron Weekly

Time off for good behavior

Nittany Lions enjoy day of leisure after blasting Michigan

By GENARO C. ARMAS
AP Sports Writer

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Penn State defensive tackle Ollie Ogbu didn't know what to do after coach Joe Paterno gave the team a day off.

They got a breather after a 25-point road win over Michigan gave No. 12 Penn State its fourth straight victory.

While not a direct reward for beating the Wolverines, the confident Nittany Lions (7-1, 3-1 Big Ten) got a break Monday to rest up for the final four games of the regular season.

Win out and the Nittany Lions likely will land another BCS bowl game.

"The funny thing is, this happens once a year, and every year the same thing happens — we don't know what to do. We don't know whether to relax, do extra work," Ogbu said Tuesday.

He ended up catching up on sleep after class.

The break was brief — the stretch run starts Saturday with a trip to Northwestern, followed by a visit Nov. 7 from Ohio State.

Not that any of the Nittany Lions say they are thinking about the annual grudge match with the Buckeyes. Paterno, head coach for a record 44 years, knows better than to look that far ahead.

"Well, you bring up a scenario that I don't think it's going to be relevant," Paterno said after a reporter mentioned the Buckeyes. "We've got to play Northwestern. I haven't even thought about the game after that one."

Penn State must avoid another slip-up to have any chance at winning a second straight Big Ten title. Their only loss came to unbeaten Iowa, so the Hawkeyes need to lose twice in their last four games for the Nittany Lions to get back in the Rose Bowl picture.

Still, the team's confidence level is at a season high after overwhelming the Wolverines last week at the Big House. Penn State has won its last four games by an average of four touchdowns.

The offense is peaking after a slow start this season. Quarterback Daryll Clark and his teammates have overcome an uncharacteristically high number of penalties recently with a dynamic mixture of running and pass plays that is keeping foes off-balance.

Senior tight end Andrew Quarless, one of at least four receivers with at 21 or more receptions, said younger Nittany Lions players have gained confidence over the last month to help boost veterans like him and Clark.

"We got those butterflies out," Quarless said. "Now that confidence is definitely up, and we're getting all those looks that we're seeing" in practice.

The team is also getting healthier.

Nerraw McCormack has recovered from a right ankle injury and should compete with Ako Poti for the starting right tackle spot this week in practice. Poti has played relatively well the last three weeks with McCormack out.

Stephfon Green (right ankle) is listed as possible on the injury report, though Paterno didn't sound optimistic Tuesday that his speedy second-string tailback would return against Northwestern.

Navorro Bowman has emerged to fulfill his potential as one of the best linebackers in the Big Ten after being sidelined most of the first three weeks because of a sore right groin. Fellow top linebacker Sean Lee has eased back into the lineup after missing three games with a sprained left knee.

A staunch defensive line keeps improving, led by disruptive tackle Jared Odrick (five sacks) and a secondary thought to be a weakness because of four new starters is gaining confidence.

All prime factors for a defense that has been a virtual fortress, allowing an NCAA-low 8.9 points a game.

"We can hang our hat knowing we're just as good, if not better, than the previous two years when we had all-stars, all-Big Ten guys playing at their positions," Ogbu said.

Daryll Clark threw four touchdown passes in Saturday's 35-10 win at Michigan.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

	Conf.	Overall
Iowa	4-0	8-0
Ohio State	4-1	6-2
Penn State	3-1	7-1
Michigan State	3-2	4-4
Wisconsin	2-2	5-2
Northwestern	2-2	5-3
Purdue	2-2	3-5
Minnesota	2-3	4-4
Michigan	1-3	5-3
Indiana	1-3	4-4
Illinois	0-5	1-6

Game of the Week

No. 5 Southern California at Nov. 10 Oregon, 8 p.m. Saturday. First place in the Pac 10 is at stake in this clash of once-beaten teams. The Trojans' only blemish is a three-point loss at Washington, while the Ducks have won six straight since a season-opening defeat at Boise State.

Spotlight Games

Georgia vs. No. 1 Florida, 3:30 p.m. Saturday on CBS. The 4-3 Bulldogs can salvage a disappointing season by upsetting their top-ranked rivals.

No. 3 Texas at No. 14 Oklahoma State, 8 p.m. Saturday. The Longhorn's Colt McCoy and the Cowboys' Zac Robinson lead a pair of high-powered offenses for the only two unbeaten teams in Big 12 play.

Robinson

Area Teams

Today

No. 21 West Virginia at South Florida, 8 p.m., ESPN2.

Saturday

No. 12 Penn State at Northwestern, 4:30 p.m., ESPN.

Big 10 Leaders

Penn State's Evan Royster is the Big 10's leading rusher with 741 yards in eight games. Conference leaders include:

Rushing Yards	
Evan Royster, Penn State	741
Ralph Bolden, Purdue	720
John Clay, Wisconsin	714
Passing Yards	
Mike Kafka, Northwestern	2,067
Joey Elliott, Purdue	2,022
Darryl Clark, Penn State	1,884
Receiving Yards	
Keith Smith, Purdue	771
Eric Decker, Minnesota	758
Blair White, Michigan State	730

Quotable

"I don't believe in moral victories; we should have won that game."

Tennessee coach Lane Kiffin, after a blocked field goal prevented his team from upsetting Alabama last week.

Unwanted QB now leads Cincinnati

By JOE KAY
AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI — Zach Collaros was the high school quarterback who wouldn't lose.

With Collaros throwing and running, Steubenville High School in eastern Ohio won 30 straight games and back-to-back small-school titles in his last two seasons. The 30-0 mark as the starting quarterback won Collaros a Division III player of the year award in 2006.

Very impressive. But when it came time to pick a college, he got a surprise.

Almost nobody wanted him.

"I only had two (scholarship) offers for football out of high school, but 11 or 12 for baseball," said Collaros, who was also a shortstop. "So that's what I was going to do — until Cincinnati came along."

Knowing that he wanted to keep playing baseball, coach Brian Kelly offered him a chance to do both — run his spread offense during the fall, dig into the batter's box in the spring. Collaros accepted and came to Cincinnati.

Two years later, he's running one of the nation's top offenses, leading an undefeated team that's ranked fifth in the country.

Good choice both ways.

The sophomore made his first collegiate start last Saturday against Louisville, filling in while Tony Pike recovers from another arm injury. Collaros kept his perfect streak going by throwing for three touchdowns in a 41-10 win.

He's expected to start again on Saturday at Syracuse (3-4) while Pike recovers from surgery to repair a protective plate in his non-passing arm. The stakes are high again — Cincinnati (7-0) must win to stay in the debate about national title contenders.

Given what they've seen of Collaros, his teammates aren't fretting over Pike's absence.

"It's not a one-man show," receiver D.J. Woods said. "Zach Collaros is a very talented quarterback. I'm happy with Zach. I respect him for stepping up to the plate."

It appeared he would be limited to stepping up to the plate in college because of his size — his listing as 6 feet tall is a tad generous — and his style.

Collaros liked to improvise when plays broke down in high school, and that became one of his strengths. College coaches generally prefer a quarterback who runs the offense as scripted. When Collaros arrived in Cincinnati, he roomed with Ben Mauk, another small-in-stature passer who had a knack for making things up on the run.

They saw their similarities.

"We're both short," Collaros said. "Me and him kind of freelance here and there a little bit when stuff breaks down. He had a real good ability of keeping the play on. I like to think I have that ability, too. He helped me out a lot."

Collaros took a redshirt season, then got in some games after Pike broke his left forearm last season, requiring a plate and six screws. Chazz Anderson — in the same recruiting class as Collaros — got to start the two games because he had a better grasp of the offense.

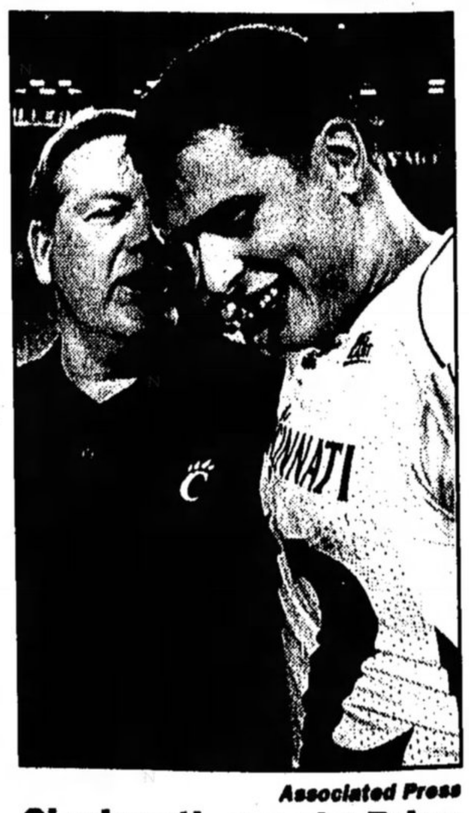
The Bearcats won the Big East title with Pike back as the starter. Collaros' final season statistics: 1 of 4 for two yards.

That gave him something to think about in his part-time role as baseball player.

He played center field last spring, started 11 of Cincinnati's 58 games and batted .204. He also had a talk with Kelly about what he needed to do to move his football career along.

"His questions were more centered on, 'How do I move up? How do I break the logjam? Is it going to be Chazz and me forever?'" Kelly said.

Kelly's response: Get better at running the offense, rely less on ad-libs. Collaros was a quick study and moved ahead of Anderson for the No. 2 job.



Associated Press

Cincinnati coach Brian Kelly, left, talks to quarterback Zach Collaros after the Bearcats defeated South Florida 34-17 Oct. 17.

SPORTS

FEARLESS FIVE

FOOTBALL PICKS 2009

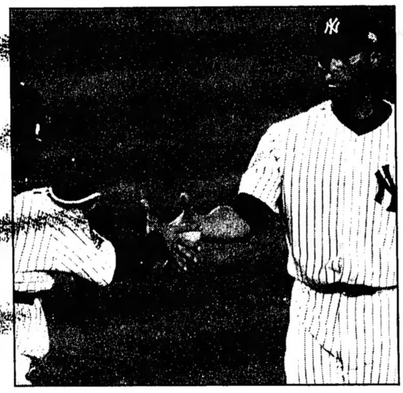
	HERMAN	DEVORE	NACCARATO	OLIVER	WALD
Elizabeth at BV Area	BVA	BVA	BVA	BVA	BVA
Ringgold at Trinity	Trinity	Ringgold	Trinity	Trinity	Ringgold
WVU at SouthFlorida	WVU	WVU	WVU	WVU	WVU
USC at Oregon	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC
Broncos at Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens	Ravens
Vikings at Packers	Packers	Packers	Vikings	Packers	Packers
Dolphins at Jets	Jets	Jets	Dophins	Jets	Jets
Jaguars at Titans	Titans	Titans	Jaguars	Titans	Titans
Rams at Lions	Lions	Lions	Rams	Lions	Rams
Giants at Eagles	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants	Giants
Last week	6-4	8-2	6-4	7-3	8-2
Season record	41-29	41-29	37-33	46-24	47-23

ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

Valley Independent sports editor Brian Herman, Monongahela businessman Don DeVore, Monessen High girls' basketball coach Gina Naccarato, Valley Independent sports writer Jeff Oliver and California University information writer Bruce Wald.

Burnett, homers get Yankees even, 3-1

Mark Teixeira and Hideki Matsui hit solo homers in New York's Game 2 win.



New York Yankees' Jorge Posada, left, congratulates Mariano Rivera after winning Game 2 of the World Series Thursday.

NEW YORK (AP) — More than anyone else on either team, pitching has been the star of this World Series.

A.J. Burnett took a page from Cliff Lee's how-to manual, backed by a few key hits and a sharp pickoff throw, New York drew even with the Phillies at one game apiece.

Mark Teixeira and Hideki Matsui helped rally the Yankees with solo homers off familiar foe Pedro Martinez, and Burnett's biting curveball frustrated Philadelphia in a 3-1 victory Thursday night.

After his team lost 6-1 in Wednesday's opener, Burnett happened to hear Lee talk about confidence during an on-field interview. It left an impression.

"He talked about belief in his stuff, and all I told myself last night and today was the same thing," Burnett said. "I went out tonight with confidence, and just, you know, the game just naturally."

Light-hitting Matt Stairs, in a 4-for-51 slide, put the Phillies on top with an RBI single in the second off the glove of third baseman Alex Rodriguez. Philadelphia never got another runner past second base against Burnett and Mariano Rivera, who pitched on a six-hitter.

After a day off, Game 3 will be at Philadelphia on Saturday night.

"We're not concerned at all. We're pretty good," Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins said.

New York had managed only an unearned run in the first two games of the Series before it came to life after a pickoff throw from backup catcher Jose Molina caught Jayson Werth off first in the fourth inning. The Yankees went on to their first Series win at their new $1.5 billion ballpark — and their first since taking a 2-1 lead against Florida in 2003.

"They're the best team we've played all year," New York's Derek Jeter said. "They're champs for a reason, and we need to play well if we're going to beat them."

In an 8-for-44 (.182) postseason slump, Teixeira tied the score when he led off the fourth by driving a high changeup into the Yankees bullpen in right field.

"I think the home run got the crowd back in it," Teixeira said. "It kind of put a little bit of a crack in their armor."

Matsui put New York ahead with two outs in the sixth, reaching down for a curveball below his knees and sending it a few rows into the seats in right.

"I was able to make a good adjustment and put a good swing on it and fortunately it led to the result," he said through a translator.

Jorge Posada, on the bench because Molina has become Burnett's personal catcher, pinch hit in the seventh and added an RBI single off Chan Ho Park.

Burnett got his first win following three postseason no-decisions for the Yankees, allowing four hits in seven innings and retiring his last eight batters.

"He went to his bread-and-butter, that backdoor curveball. It's impossible to hit," Stairs said.

Burnett struck out nine and started his first 11 hitters with strikes, nine of them looking. Burnett kept his control, walking two, one intentional.

"A.J.'s breaking ball, it starts in the other batter's box," said Ryan Howard, who struck out three times against Burnett and four times in all. "That's a nasty pitch, nasty today."

Rivera got six outs for his 38th postseason save, his 10th in World Series play. After the Phillies put two on with one out in the eighth, Game 1 star Chase Utley grounded into an inning-ending double play.

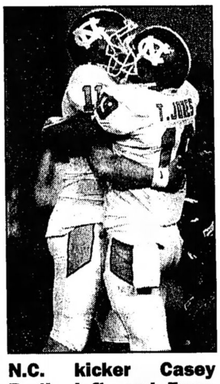
When Rivera struck out Stairs with a runner on to end it, the Yankees sounded relieved.

"If we went in there 0-2, it would have been a tough road for us," Teixeira said.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi made several moves that paid off.

Last-second field goal gives N. Carolina upset victory

14th-ranked Va. Tech was favored by more than 2 touchdowns.



N.C. kicker Casey Barth, left, and Trase Jones celebrate last second win.

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — North Carolina's defense is as good as advertised. T.J. Yates, Shaun Draughn and the offense are improving, too.

Casey Barth kicked a 21-yard field goal on the final play and the Tar Heels' defense, ranked seventh in the nation, stopped No. 14 Virginia Tech all night long in a 20-17 victory on Thursday night.

One week after blowing an 18-point lead in a 30-27 home loss against Florida State that had them reeling, the Tar Heels put their troubles in the past and handed the Hokies their second loss in a row. Twelve days earlier, Tech was in the national championship hunt.

"I've never really had this feeling before," Yates said after making several key completions. "Kicking it at the last second? It just sends chills down your spine."

The Tar Heels (5-4, 1-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) got their first conference win after forcing a fumble by Ryan Williams at his own 24 with 2:02 left and running out the clock.

Barth's field goal, his second in the final 3 minutes, just made it official.

"We knew we had to get back to the drawing board," Draughn said after running for 77 yards. "To come back and play the way we did definitely speaks volumes about out team."

The reverse may be true of the Hokies (5-3, 3-2), who until losing to No. 11 Georgia Tech 12 days ago were in the thick of the national championship picture and feeling good.

Now, with their slim ACC championship game chances probably also squandered?

"I think the motivation is to come out here so you don't feel like this again," linebacker Cody Grimm said, dismissing a 10-win season as a motivator. "Ten wins is one thing, but I don't want to feel like this any more and the only way to do that is to win."

No one felt worse than Williams, who started the night averaging 119 rushing yards, gained 96 and was hoping to lead the team down the field to a win until he lost the ball.

"As of right now, there probably isn't really anything they can say to lift me up because regardless of what anybody says, personally I feel like I kind of took the game away from us today," Williams said. "It was on the line, it was in my hands and I fumbled."

The loss was the Hokies' first in six ACC games against the Tar Heels.

Tydreke Powell caused Williams to fumble for just the second time this season — the first was on a muffed punt in the opener — and Deunta Williams recovered, setting the Tar Heels up at the Hokies 24. After six carries by Ryan Houston, Barth's chip shot won it.

Yates, who was knocked out of the Tar Heels 20-17 loss to the Hokies last season, finished 18-for-28 for just 131 yards. He was sacked twice, both in the first quarter.

He hit Jheranie Boyd from 13 yards in the first half for the game's first points, and Greg Little from 15 yards as the Tar Heels answered immediately after the Hokies tied it.

Yates did make one big mistake, throwing a dump pass that Rashad Carmichael intercepted at the North Carolina 11, setting up the second of Tyrod Taylor's two touchdown runs. That gave the Hokies a 17-14 lead with 11:51 left, but Yates engineered a 16-play, 78-yard drive to a tying field goal and then the defense, fittingly, made a big play to get the win.

"I thought it was his best performance," Tar Heels coach Butch Davis said of Yates.

Yanks end 6-year wait

NEW YORK (AP) — The Yankees waited six long years for this.

They had not won a World Series game since that rainy night in Miami when Mike Mussina beat Florida's Josh Beckett for a 2-1 lead in the 2003 World Series.

Since then, they had lost four in a row in the Series — the only games that really matter for a franchise that counts championships by the dozen. They had churned through starters such as Kevin Brown, Javier Vazquez, Randy Johnson and Carl Pavano in a futile flurry that failed to regain the team's lofty level.

Even CC Sabathia fell short in the opener when New York returned to the Series this year.

A.J. Burnett finally broke through, pitching the type of game the Yankees expect — if not demand.

Burnett took a page from Cliff Lee's how-to manual and backed by a few key hits and a sharp pickoff throw, New York drew even with the Phillies at one game apiece.

Mark Teixeira and Hideki Matsui shook the Yankees from their lumber slumber with solo homers off familiar foe Pedro Martinez, and Burnett's biting curveball frustrated Philadelphia in a 3-1 victory Thursday night.

"I fed off the crowd tonight," Burnett said. "They were cheering all the time, but when I struck guys out, they really got loud, so I was just trying to keep that going for them."

After Philadelphia won Wednesday's opener 6-1, Burnett happened to hear Lee talk about confidence during an on-field interview. It left an impression.

"He talked about belief in his stuff, and all I told myself last night and today was the same thing," Burnett said.

SPORTS DIGEST

Frazier winner; Ringgold loses

Frazier was the lone area winner in the WPIAL volleyball playoffs Thursday.

The once-beaten Lady Commodores swept Sacred Heart, 3-0, at South Fayette.

Frazier won by 25-18, 25-14 and 25-14 scores to advance to the Class A quarterfinals against Jefferson-Morgan Tuesday.

Ringgold was a 3-0 first round loser in Class AAA to Seneca Valley with Blackhawk ousting Yough, 3-0, in a Class AA first round match.

Girls' basketball clinics scheduled

The Washington Township Youth Association will sponsor free girl's basketball clinics for third through sixth graders in the Belle Vernon Area School District Monday through Wednesday at the Bellmar Middle School gym.

The clinics for third and fourth graders will run from 5:30 p.m. to7 p.m.with the fifth and sixth graders' clinic running from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Another sack of Roethlisberger

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ben Roethlisberger can get sacked even during an off week.

A scoring change has given the Minnesota Vikings an additional sack of Roethlisberger during Pittsburgh's 27-17 victory on Sunday. Roethlisberger was sacked four times, giving him 20 for the season.

A play in which Roethlisberger was initially given a 1-yard loss on a run has been changed to a sack by Minnesota's Kevin Williams.

Roethlisberger is on pace to be sacked 46 times, as many times as he was dropped last season.

Trivia answer

Peyton Manning (121.1), Tom Brady (117.2) and Steve Young (112.8).

Unhappy Browns' fans are fighting back

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Tired of seeing their beloved Browns lose, some Cleveland fans are fighting back. Hoping to make a statement to protest the NFL team's abysmal record — this season and since the team returned in 1999 — some Browns backers are encouraging fans to walk in late to the Nov. 16 home game against Baltimore.

Two longtime season-ticket holders came up with the idea after Sunday's 31-3 loss to Green Bay.

Blackmar stays hot; tied for lead in Schwab Cup Championship

SONOMA, Calif. (AP) — A year ago, Phil Blackmar wasn't sure he wanted to keep playing competitive golf. Now he's trying to win for the second straight week.

Four days after his first Champions Tour win, Blackmar shot a 6-under 66 on Thursday to share the first-round lead with Jeff Sluman in the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

"Somebody jumped in my body last week. I guess I'm here," said Blackmar, who had six birdies in a bogey-free round at Sonoma Golf Club. "I hope he stays there for another three days. I don't know who he is."

The 6-foot-7 Blackmar was languishing in 57th place on the money list and [illegible] avoid having to go to qualifying school. He didn't like that prospect and was seriously considering retiring.

"I had already determined that if I didn't (finish strong) then I was not going to play anymore," said Blackmar, a three-time winner on the PGA Tour who joined the Champions Tour late in 2007. "You can't qualify on a Monday and follow this tour around. It's just too hard."

Sluman birdied three of his first four holes on the [illegible] eagled the par-5 16th then birdied 17 to move into a tie with Blackmar.

"I didn't feel very comfortable over the ball [illegible] I worked and stayed patient with my golf swing," Sluman said. "I got into a groove with the putter, which is really [illegible]."

[illegible] Tomero, the Toshiba Classic winner in March at Newport Beach, was a stroke back at 67, and John Cook and Brad Bryant opened with 68s.

Charles Schwab Cup points leader Loren Roberts had two eagles in a 70. Fred Funk, 165 points behind Roberts in second place in the race for the $1 million annuity, had a 71. Jay Haas, the 2008 points champion, also shot a 71, while Bernhard Langer, the only other player in contention for the points title, had a 72.

Langer is 348 points behind Roberts, and Haas is 602 back. The players will receive a point for every $500 earned, making a victory worth $442,000 and 884 points.

Langer leads the tour with four victories and $2,033,451. Roberts, a three-time winner, is second on the money list with $1,854,613.

SPORTS

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	12	10	2	0	20	43	26
N.Y. Rangers	13	8	4	1	17	47	36
New Jersey	11	7	4	0	14	29	27
Philadelphia	10	5	4	1	11	33	31
N.Y. Islanders	11	2	4	5	9	25	38

Northeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	9	7	1	1	15	30	17
Ottawa	11	6	3	2	14	36	34
Montreal	12	6	6	0	12	31	38
Boston	11	5	5	1	11	31	34
Toronto	10	1	7	2	4	24	42

Southeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	12	8	2	2	18	45	35
Tampa Bay	10	4	3	3	11	29	34
Atlanta	9	4	4	1	9	31	28
Carolina	11	2	6	3	7	26	39
Florida	10	2	7	1	5	22	39

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	12	7	4	1	15	36	29
Columbus	11	6	5	0	12	34	38
St. Louis	11	5	5	1	11	29	29
Nashville	12	5	6	1	11	24	36
Detroit	11	4	4	3	11	35	41

Northwest Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	13	10	1	2	22	44	28
Calgary	11	7	3	1	15	43	36
Edmonton	13	7	5	1	15	44	41
Vancouver	13	7	6	0	14	37	34
Minnesota	12	3	9	0	6	26	39

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	14	8	4	2	18	46	42
San Jose	13	8	4	1	17	44	36
Phoenix	12	8	4	0	16	32	23
Dallas	12	6	2	4	16	41	35
Anaheim	10	3	6	1	7	25	37

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Thursday's Games

New Jersey 2, Boston 1
Washington 4, Atlanta 3
Tampa Bay 5, Ottawa 2
Phoenix 2, St. Louis 0
Nashville 2, Chicago 0
Edmonton 6, Detroit 5, SO
Vancouver 2, Los Angeles 1, SO

Today's Games

N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Montreal at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Florida at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Edmonton at Boston, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 3 p.m.
Toronto at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Detroit at Calgary, 10 p.m.

Youth football

Mon Valley Midget League

Playoffs

Second Round

Saturday

At Bentworth

Noon - Tiny Mites, Frazier (5) vs Norwin (3)

1 p.m. - Termites, Norwin (3) vs Monessen (2)

2:30 p.m. - Mighty Mites, Union-Finley (3) vs Frazier (2)

4 p.m. - Midgets, Beth-Center (3) vs Rostraver (2)

At Yough

Noon - Tiny Mites, Charleroi (7) vs Rostraver (1)

1 p.m. - Termites, Elizabeth Forward (4) vs Rostraver (1)

2:30 p.m. - Mighty Mites, Norwin (4) vs Rostraver (1)

4 p.m. - Midgets, Elizabeth Forward (4) vs Yough (1)

Big East football standings

	Conf. W	Conf. L	Overall W	Overall L
Pittsburgh	3	0	6	1
Cincinnati	2	0	6	0
West Virginia	1	0	5	1
USF	1	1	5	1
Connecticut	1	1	4	2
Rutgers	0	2	5	2
Louisville	0	2	2	4
Syracuse	0	2	2	4

Friday

West Virginia at South Florida, 8 p.m. (ESPN2)

Saturday

Cincinnati at Syracuse, noon (ESPNU)

Rutgers at Connecticut, noon

Arkansas State at Louisville, noon

PSAC football standings

West Division

	Conf. W	Conf. L	Overall W	Overall L
California	6	0	7	2
Edinboro	5	1	7	2
Clarion	5	1	6	3
Mercyhurst	3	3	4	5
Slippery Rock	2	4	5	4
Gannon	2	4	4	5
Indiana	1	5	4	5
Lock Haven	0	6	0	8

East Division

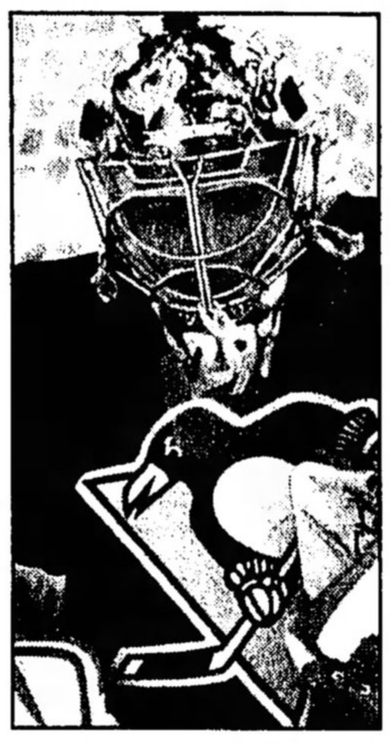
	Conf. W	Conf. L	Overall W	Overall L
Shippensburg	5	1	7	2
Bloomsburg	5	1	8	1
West Chester	4	2	5	4
C.W. Post	4	2	4	5
East Stroudsburg	3	3	6	3
Millersville	2	4	3	6
Kutztown	1	5	3	6
Cheyney	0	6	0	9

Saturday

Noon - Kutztown at C.W. Post

1 p.m. - Bloomsburg at West Chester; Millersville at East Stroudsburg; Gannon at Indiana; Clarion at Edinboro; Shippensburg at Cheyney; Slippery Rock at Lock Haven.

3:30 p.m. - Mercyhurst at California



Marc Andre-Fleury and the Pens take on Columbus, 7 p.m., on Fox Sports Net.

Sports dial

Today

Television

2:30 p.m. - Golf Channel - Viking Classic, golf.

4:30 p.m. - Golf Channel - Charles Schwab Cup, golf.

7 p.m. - Fox Sports - Pittsburgh at Columbus, hockey.

8 p.m. - ESPN - Chicago at Boston, pro basketball.

8 p.m. - ESPN2 - West Virginia at South Florida, college football.

9 p.m. - Versus - PBR World Finals, rodeo.

10:30 p.m. - ESPN - Dallas at Los Angeles Lakers, pro basketball.

11 p.m. - Golf Channel - Barclays Singapore Open, golf.

Radio

7 p.m. - WXDX (105.9) - Pittsburgh at Columbus, hockey.

7 p.m. - WJPA (1450) - Ringgold at Trinity, high school football.

7 p.m. - KQV (1410) - South Park at Steel Valley, high school football.

7:30 p.m. - WBGG (970) - Baldwin at Bethel Park, high school football.

7:30 p.m. - WJAS (1320) - Gateway at McKeesport, high school football.

7:30 p.m.- WMBS (590) - Laurel Highland at Uniontown, high schoolfootball.

7:30 p.m. - WLSW (103.9) - Mt. Pleasant at Charleroi, high school football.

7:30 p.m. - WEAE (1250) - Upper St.Clair at Mt. Lebanon, high school football.

7:30 p.m. - WJPA (95.3 FM) - Washington at McGuffey, high school football.

World Series

Thursday

New York 3, Philadelphia 1, series tied 1-1.

Saturday

New York (Pettite 14-8) at Philadelphia (Hamels 10-11), 7:57 p.m.

Sunday

New York at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.

World Series boxscore

PHILADELPHIA	ab	r	h	bi	NEW YORK	ab	r	h	bi
Rollins ss	2	0	0	0	Jeter ss	4	0	1	0
Victorn cf	4	0	1	0	Damon lf	4	0	0	0
Utley 2b	3	0	0	0	Teixeir 1b	3	1	1	1
Howard 1b	4	0	0	0	ARdrgz 3b	4	0	0	0
Werth rf	4	0	1	0	HMatsu dh	3	1	2	1
Ibanez lf	4	1	2	0	Cano 2b	4	0	1	0
Stairs dh	4	0	1	1	HrstnJr rf	3	0	1	0
P.Feliz 3b	3	0	0	0	Gardnr pr-cf	1	1	0	0
C.Ruiz c	3	0	1	0	MeCarr cf-rf	3	0	1	0
					JMolin c	1	0	0	0
					Posada ph-c	1	0	1	1
Totals	31	1	6	1	Totals	31	3	8	3

Philadelphia	010	000	000 — 1
New York	000	101	10x — 3

DP—Philadelphia 1, New York 1. LOB—Philadelphia 6, New York 7. 2B—Ibanez 2 (2), C.Ruiz (2). Jeter (2). HR—Teixeira (1), H.Matsui (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Philadelphia						
P.Martinez L,0-1	6	6	3	3	2	8
Park	1-3	1	0	0	0	1
S.Eyre	2-3	0	0	0	0	0
Madson	1	1	0	0	0	3
New York						
A.Burnett W,1-0	7	4	1	1	2	9
Ma.Rivera S,1-1	2	2	0	0	1	2

P.Martinez pitched to 2 batters in the 7th.

HBP—by Madson (Teixeira).

Umpires—Home, Jeff Nelson; First, Brian Gorman; Second, Mike Everitt; Third, Dana DeMuth; Right, Gerry Davis; Left, Joe West. T—3:25. A—50,181 (52,325).

PSAC basketball poll

West Division

Men

1. Indiana
2. California
3. Gannon
4. Slippery Rock
5. Mercyhurst
6. Edinboro
7. Clarion
8. Lock Haven

All-conference

Julian Sanders, Darryl Webb and Thomas Young, Indiana; **Kelsey Williams, California;** Maron Brown, SlipperyRock; Jordan Armstrong, Mercyhurst.

Women

1. California.
2. Gannon
3. Indiana
4. Edinboro
5. Mercyhurst
6. Clarion
7. Slippery Rock
8. Lock Haven

All-conference

Brooque Williams and Kayla Smith, California; Kristina Freeman, Gannon; Kelsey Conklin, Edinboro; Amy Achesinski, Mercyhurst; Bethany Koch, Clarion.

Soccer playoffs

Boys

Class AAA

Quarterfinals

Thursday

Upper St. Clair 3, Fox Chapel 0

Saturday

At Mt. Lebanon

5 p.m. - Shaler (9-5-3) at Mt. Lebanon (16-1-1)

At North Allegheny

4 p.m. - Pine-Richland (11-4-2) vs Norwin (14-4-1)

At Chartiers Valley

3 p.m. - Peters Township (14-2-1) vs Bethel Park (15-3-1)

Class AA

Quarterfinals

Thursay

West Allegheny 2, Center 1

Saturday

At Mt. Lebanon

3 p.m. - Mars (18-1) vs Southmoreland (14-3-1)

At North Hills

2 p.m. - Hampton (14-3) vs South Park (17-2)

4p.m. - Beaver (12-5) vs Chartiers Valley (11-5-2)

Class A

Quarterfinals

Thursday

Grb. Central 4, Trinity Christian 1
Seton-LaSalle 1, Quaker Valley 0
Springdale 2, Sewickley Academy 1

Girls

Class AAA

Quarterfinals

Saturday

At North Allegheny

2 p.m. - Moon (17-0-1) vs Norwin (15-3-1)

At Chartiers Valley

1 p.m. - Peters Township (16-1-2) vs Mt. Lebanon (14-3-1)

5 p.m. - Canon-McMillan (15-5) vs Penn-Trafford (15-3-1)

At Mt. Lebanon

1 p.m. - Southmoreland (14-1-2) vs Seneca Valley (18-0-1).

Class AA

Quarterfinals

Thursday

Center 8, Mt. Pleasant 2
Beaver 2, Quaker Valley 0
Springdale 3, Sewickley Academy 0

Saturday

At North Hills

Noon - South Park (16-1-2) vs Shady Side Academy (14-3-1)

High school football

Class AAA

Big Seven Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
T. Jefferson	5	0	8	0
Chartiers Valley	5	1	7	1
West Mifflin	2	3	5	3
BV Area	2	3	4	4
Trinity	2	3	3	5
Elizabeth Forward	1	4	4	4
Ringgold	1	4	3	5

Today

Elizabeth Forward at BV Area
Ringgold at Trinity
T. Jefferson at West Mifflin
A. Gallatin at Char Valley

Keystone Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Greensburg Salem	5	0	7	1
Uniontown	4	1	5	3
Laurel Highlands	3	2	3	5
Derry	3	2	3	5
Albert Gallatin	2	4	3	5
Yough	1	4	1	7
S'moreland	0	5	0	8

Today

Southmoreland at Yough
L. Highland at Uniontown
Derry at Greensburg Salem
A. Gallatin at Char Valley

Class AA

Interstate Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Mt. Pleasant	8	0	8	0
McGuffey	6	2	6	2
Washington	6	2	6	2
Greensburg Central	6	2	6	2
Charleroi	5	3	5	3
Jeannette	5	3	5	3
Waynesburg	2	6	2	6
Brownsville	1	7	1	7
South Allegheny	0	8	0	8
East Allegheny	1	7	1	7

Today

Mt. Pleasant at Charleroi
Brownsville at Waynesburg
Washington at McGuffey
E. Allegheny at S. Allegheny
Greensburg C.C. at Jeannette

Class A

Tri-County South

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Monesseh	6	0	6	2
Beth-Center	5	1	6	2
Jefferson-Morgan	4	2	6	2
California	3	3	4	4
Carmichaels	3	3	3	5
Geibel	2	4	3	5
Mapletown	1	5	1	7
West Greene	0	6	0	8

Today

California at Monessen
Carmichaels at West Greene
Mapletown at Jeff-Morgan

Saturday

Beth-Center at Geibel, noon

Black Hills Conference

	Con. W	Con. L	Overall W	Overall L
Clairton	5	0	6	1
Serra	4	1	6	1
Fort Cherry	3	2	5	2
Chartiers-Houston	2	3	4	3
Burgettstown	2	3	3	4
Frazier	2	3	3	4
Bentworth	1	4	2	5
Avella	1	4	2	5

Today

Bentworth at Frazier
Serra at Clairton
Avella at Burgettstown
Fort Cherry at Char-Houston

NBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	2	0	1.000	—
Toronto	1	0	1.000	1/2
New Jersey	0	1	.000	1 1/2
New York	0	1	.000	1 1/2
Philadelphia	0	1	.000	1 1/2

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	1	0	1.000	—
Miami	1	0	1.000	—
Orlando	1	0	1.000	—
Washington	1	0	1.000	—
Charlotte	0	1	.000	1

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	1	0	1.000	—
Detroit	1	0	1.000	—
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	1/2
Indiana	0	1	.000	1
Cleveland	0	2	.000	1 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	1	1	.500	—
San Antonio	1	1	.500	—
Dallas	0	1	.000	1/2
Memphis	0	1	.000	1/2
New Orleans	0	1	.000	1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	2	0	1.000	—
Minnesota	1	0	1.000	1/2
Oklahoma City	1	0	1.000	1/2
Portland	1	1	.500	1
Utah	0	1	.000	1 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	1	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	1	0	1.000	—
Golden State	0	1	.000	1
Sacramento	0	1	.000	1
L.A. Clippers	0	2	.000	1 1/2

Thursday's Games

Chicago 92, San Antonio 85
Denver 97, Portland 94

Today's Games

New York at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Boston, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Miami at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Orlando at New Jersey, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Utah, 9 p.m.
Golden State at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Sports moves

BASEBALL

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Declined their 2010 contract options on 3B Melvin Mora and C Chad Moeller. Named Jeff Datz bench coach.

SEATTLE MARINERS—Activated LHP Cesar Jimenez from 60-day DL and sent him outright to Tacoma (PCL). Sent INF Brian LaHair, RHP Randy Messenger and RHP Marwin Vega outright to Tacoma.

TEXAS RANGERS—Agreed to terms with C Kevin Richardson on a minor league contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Claimed LHP Sean Henn off waivers from Baltimore. Designated C Michael Barrett for assignment. Named Mike Mordecai roving minor league infield instructor.

National League

PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Claimed LHP Justin Thomas off waivers from Seattle

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Exercised their third-year contract option on C Alexis Ajinca.

TORONTO RAPTORS—Exercised their fourth-year contract option on G Marco Belinelli.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Signed FB Kyle Eckel.

Canadian Football League

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS—Signed OL Ryan Ackerman to the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

LOS ANGELES KINGS—Claimed D Randy Jones off re-entry waivers. Placed D Alec Martinez on injured reserve retroactive to Oct. 5.

OTTAWA SENATORS—Recalled D Brian Lee from Binghamton (AHL) on an emergency basis.

PHOENIX COYOTES—Re-assigned D Sean Sullivan to San Antonio (AHL).

COLLEGE

BIG EAST CONFERENCE—Named Mark Hodgkin director of internet services, Andy Anderson coordinator of video services. Nick Carparelli Jr. and Joe D'Antonio Jr. senior associate commissioners, Donna DeMarco associate commissioner for administration and Benjamin Fairclough senior director of external affairs.

UNION, N.Y.—Named Jordan Stevens softball coach.

MLS playoffs

Thursday

Houston 0, Seattle 0

Saturday

Columbus at Real Salt Lake, 6 p.m.

Chicago at New England, 4 p.m.

Sunday

Los Angeles at Chivas USA, 5 p.m.

Seattle at Houston, 3 p.m.

Football scores

COLLEGE

SOUTH

Georgetown, Ky. 45, Pikeville 0

North Carolina 20, Virginia Tech 17

NFL standings

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	5	2	0	.714	198	98
N.Y. Jets	4	3	0	.571	152	104
Buffalo	3	4	0	.429	113	138
Miami	2	4	0	.333	146	152

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	6	0	0	1.000	179	77
Houston	4	3	0	.571	167	158
Jacksonville	3	3	0	.500	120	147
Tennessee	0	6	0	.000	84	198

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	5	2	0	.714	163	128
Pittsburgh	5	2	0	.714	167	129
Baltimore	3	3	0	.500	169	130
Cleveland	1	6	0	.143	72	179

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	6	0	0	1.000	133	66
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	161	143
Oakland	2	5	0	.286	62	177
Kansas City	1	6	0	.143	105	181

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	2	0	.714	195	143
Philadelphia	4	2	0	.667	163	116
Dallas	4	2	0	.667	159	119
Washington	2	5	0	.286	96	123

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	6	0	0	1.000	238	127
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	144	114
Carolina	2	4	0	.333	94	145
Tampa Bay	0	7	0	.000	96	203

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	6	1	0	.857	206	148
Green Bay	4	2	0	.667	161	96
Chicago	3	3	0	.500	129	144
Detroit	1	5	0	.167	103	188

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	4	2	0	.667	136	109
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	133	122
Seattle	2	4	0	.333	118	109
St. Louis	0	7	0	.000	60	211

Latest Line

NFL

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Sunday, Nov 1		
Week Eight		
BALTIMORE	3 1/2	(41) Denver
CHICAGO	13	(40) Cleve.
Houston	3	(41) BUFFALO
GREEN BAY	3	(47) Minnesota
INDIANA.	12	(44) San Fran
NY JETS	3	(40) Miami
DETROIT	3 1/2	(43) St. Louis
DALLAS	9 1/2	(45) Seattle
SAN DIEGO	17	(43) Oakland
TENNESSEE	3	(44) J'ville
ARIZONA	10	(43) Carolina
PHILA	1	(44) NY Giants
Monday, Nov 2		
N. ORLEANS	10	(54) Atlanta

Bye Week: Cincinnati, Kansas City, New England, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay, and Washington.

College Football

Favorite	Points	Underdog
W. Virginia	3	S. FLORIDA
Saturday, Oct 31		
CONN.	7 1/2	Rutgers
Cincinnati	14 1/2	SYRACUSE
BOS. COLL.	5	C. Michigan
Ohio	6	BALL ST
VIRGINIA	7	Duke
IOWA	17 1/2	Indiana
WISCONSIN	6 1/2	Purdue
Miami-Florida	7	WAKE FOREST
FLORIDA ST	9 1/2	NC State
N. ILLINOIS	12	Akron
OHIO ST	44	New Mexico St
Ga Tech	12 1/2	VANDERBILT
TEXAS A&M	7	Iowa St
Mississippi	3 1/2	AUBURN
ARKANSAS	38	E. Michigan
KENT ST	1	W. Michigan
Nebraska	12 1/2	BAYLOR
TULSA	16 1/2	Smu
TEX.EL PASO	6 1/2	Ala-Birm.
BOISE ST	35	San Jose St
a-FLORIDA	15 1/2	Georgia
Toledo	4 1/2	MIAMI-OHIO
OREGON ST	9	Ucla
NAVY	7	Temple
California	7	ARIZONA ST
Michigan	7	ILLINOIS
Missouri	3 1/2	COLORADO
OKLAHOMA	28	Kansas St
Texas	9	OKLAHOMA ST
NEVADA	24 1/2	Hawaii
TCU	35	Univ

Gene Gladys was Monessen's starting quarterback in 1978.

Air Force	3 1/2	COLORADO ST	
Penn St	15 1/2	N'WESTERN	
IDAHO	3	Louisiana Tech	
FRESNO ST	17	Utah St	
KENTUCKY	3 1/2	Mississippi St	
TEXAS TECH	7	Kansas	
S. DIEGO ST	16	New Mexico	
b-N. Dame	28	Washington St	
TENNESSEE	6	S. Carolina	
Southern Cal	3 1/2	OREGON	
HOUSTON	6 1/2	Southern Miss	
UTAH	17	Wyoming	
LSU	35 1/2	Tulane	
Michigan St	3 1/2	MINNESOTA	
LOUISVILLE	4	Arkansas St	
FLA INTER.	3 1/2	UL-Lafayette	
N. TEXAS	11	W. Kentucky	
FLORIDA ATL	2	Middle Tenn St	
TROY	16 1/2	UL-Monroe	
Sunday, Nov 1			
C. FLORIDA	5	Marshall	

a-at Jacksonville, FL.
b-at San Antonio, TX.

NBA

Favorite	Points	Underdog
PHILADELPHIA	8	Milwaukee
CHARLOTTE	3	New York
ATLANTA	7	Washington
BOSTON	12	Chicago
DETROIT	7	Oklahoma City
INDIANA	7	Miami
N. ORLEANS	12	Sacramento
Torornto	4	MEMPHIS
Cleveland	12	MINNESOTA
Orlando	10	NEW JERSEY
UTAH	9	LA Clippers
PHOENIX	8	Gld. State
LA LAKERS	9	Dallas

HOME TEAM IN CAPS

Walker (FROM PAGE ONE)

Sotereano and Gerald Johnson, who broke a 73-yard TD run against Chartiers Valley.

The Warriors also have one of the conference's best kickers in Nick Kalpakis, who hit a 47-yarder against the Colts.

"They're a solid team and we're going to have to be ready to play," said Krepps.

Ringgold, meanwhile, snapped a four-game losing skid with a 29-21 victory over West Mifflin.

"We've been playing better the last two-three weeks," said the Rams' first-year coach Lloyd Price. "We're making fewer mistakes. It was like a playoff game for us last week and we're taking the same approach this week."

So is Trinity, which has to win to make the playoffs and scored 69 points in its last two outings - victories over West Mifflin and Yough.

"They seem to be hitting their stride," said Price. "They've been playing well lately and will be the most physical team we've faced on the offensive and defensive lines."

Ringgold has yet to score a touchdown in a conference game inside the 10.

"We don't have a red zone offense," said Price.

Junior quarterback Dylan Patch has had a hand in the Rams' last nine touchdowns, running for seven and throwing for two.

Noise (FROM PAGE ONE)

and Ben Jennings (462) have combined for 925 yards and each scored five touchdowns.

Mercyhurst quarterback Joe Laffey has thrown for 1,380 yards and 11 touchdowns with 11 interceptions.

Josh Szeluga (33 for 423) and Trevor Kennedy (30 for 434) are Laffey's leading receivers.

LEFTOVERS: The contest will be televised Sunday at 4:30 p.m. on Fox Sports. Despite last week's 44-7 romp at Slippery Rock, Cal slipped from third to fourth in the Super Regional One ranking. West Liberty, Shippensburg and Bloomsburg are the top three teams.

Cal (FROM PAGE ONE)

sophomores Tim Tyree of Monessen, Chad Tipton and Travon Vaughn.

LaRon Byrd and Beth-Center's Ryan Niemiec are freshmen expected to see playing time.

The Vulcans open the exhibition campaign Sunday in Oxford, Ohio, against NCAA Division I Miami (O.) University befo

Swasey, meanwhile, downplayed the favorite's role.

"Preseason don't mean anything to me," he said.

Swasey inherits only two returning players but they 're among the conference's best in 5-8 senior guard Brooque Williams and 5-11 junior Kayla Smith.

"Brooque and Kayla are scary good," said Swasey whose Franklin Pierce team ousted the Vulcans, 88-73, in last year NCAA Division II quarterfinals.

"I'm not going to change things but try to be better in the half-court game," he said. "We'll have seven new players so trying to get team chemistry is the main focus.

"We'll be one of the conference's smaller teams so rebounding will be crucial. How we do on the glass will determine how far we go."

Kara Waltenbaugh, a 6-1 transfer from Lock Haven, is the only other senior besides Williams.

Other key players Swasey is counting on are 5-10 redshirt junior Amy Johns, 5-7 freshman Kiara Brown, 5-7 sophomore Taryn Russ, 5-5 sophomore Danielle Luckett and 5-11 junior Tatianna Hall.

Cal's first game is Saturday, Nov. 7 in Baltimore, Md. against Division I Morgan State.

FEATURES

ANNIVERSARIES

Moluski 50th

Walter J. Jr. and Virginia Moluski, of Elco, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a surprise party given by their children and grandchildren at the Roscoe Fire Hall.

The Moluskis were united in marriage Oct. 18, 1959, in Aspinwall.

They are the parents of daughter, Bonnie Simmons, of Roscoe; son, Walter Moluski III, and wife Karen, of Daisytown; and daughter, Diane, and husband, Tom Seal, of Roscoe. They are the grandparents of Marla Simmons, of Roscoe, and Morgan Moluski, of Daisytown.

The son of the late Walter J. Sr. and Margaret (Hartman) Moluski, Walter Moluski is retired from the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Allenport plant and is currently employed at Fleet Depot in Bridgeville.

The daughter of the late John C. and Florence (Watkins) Hartman, Virginia Moluski is a homemaker.

Walter and Virginia Moluski

VALLEY CLUB NOTES

Catholic Women's College Club

The Catholic Women's College Club held its Oct. 5 meeting at the Mon Valley Care Center in Monongahela. Sections of the 23rd Psalm are the focus at each monthly meeting. Residents at the care center enjoyed games of bingo with everyone winning several prizes donated by the club members. Refreshments were served and piano selections provided by member, Adeline Sala.

Following the bingo activities, the regular business meeting was called to order and began with a short prayer led by President Camilla Ferrara. Secretary Marie Feick and Treasurer Martha Ghilani issued reports, and correspondence was read. Yearly membership dues are still being collected.

Standing committee reports were given. Ambassadors of Faith chairwoman, Margie Pankiewicz, shared a poem and distributed prayer cards and a Rosary to each member. Noreen Fazzini, charitable services chairwoman, reported on visits made to friends and members. Mary Ann Gallo and members of the Handicapped Adults Committee offered a tribute of prayer and remembrance for a gentleman they had visited for many years who recently passed away. Welfare Committee Chairwoman Dorothy Jozwiak, advised of cards and spiritual bouquets sent to the sick and hospitalized members. Georgetta Wiles, telephone chairwoman, thanked her committee for its continued good work.

Gift of the month was won by Ghilani.

Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the meeting. The October committee included Pankiewicz, Fazzini, Sala, Tina Rossi, Thelma Kurpieski, Alvera Litsky, and Donna Mocilan.

October birthdays were recognized for members Betty Greco, Dorothy Bewick, Lisa Foglia, Nancy Tirpak, Diane Vernet, Susan Tegi, and Deborah Leach-Bogdan.

The next meeting will be held 6 p.m. Monday at the Epiphany of Our Lord Church Hall, Knox Avenue, Monessen. The group will attend the traditional All Souls Day Mass at 7 p.m. Members are also asked to bring canned goods for the food bank.

Fayette City Goldenagers

The Fayette City Goldenagers met noon Oct. 21 at the Center on the Hill in Washington Township.

President Shirley Fugo opened the meeting. Chaplain Betty Savarino had opening prayer and led members in the flag salute. Secretary Loretta Mitchner read the Sept. 16 picnic minutes.

October servers were Betty Maguire, Betty Savarino, Rose Marie Knox, Pat Mikula and Lillian Kepsel. October birthdays were observed by Pat Brown, Mary Ann Lisovich, and Virginia Swantek. Guest was Theresa Toth. A 34-year anniversary was observed by Leo and Madeline Potisek. Door prizes winners were Kepsel, Loraine Nelson, Mikula, Leo Potisek, Mary Nega, Brown, Mary Shaffer, Mary Ann Lisovich, Edith Weaver and Don Mitchner.

November servers will be Brown, Eleanor Duwall, Mary Ann Mollard, Betty Petros and Lidia Salvino.

All reservations must be made by Nov. 18 for the Dec. 3 dinner.

Following the meeting, members will play Left, Right and Center.

Thomas McKee American Legion Post 28

American Legion Thomas McKee Post 28 held its October meeting at the Mon Valley Community Health Center in Monessen. The meeting was called to order by Commander John Billy. Chaplain Robert Gilotty opened the meeting with prayer. The flag salute took place.

The regular monthly meeting began with the adjutant taking roll and reading the minutes of the previous month's business.

Following the minutes, Billy opened the meeting with a general discussion about the upcoming Veterans Day parade. The one topic discussed was the amount of money collected and also the amount sold by one individual who is not even a member of the legion. Also discussed were the high school bands participating in the parade. Jim Pallini, in charge of inviting the bands, noted that eight have confirmed. The Shriners will also march, along with the veterans' groups. Also expected to march in the parade are the Lions Club, the Leo Club from the Monessen High School, the Gold Star Mothers, the B.G.'s and many others too numerous to mention.

Since there was no further new business to discuss, Billy asked the chaplain to lead the closing prayer for the men and women still in harm's way for their safe return home and also for the POWs and MIAs.

CALENDAR WATCH

Saturday

■ Halloween masquerade square dance, Long Branch Community Grange 2072 hall, 7:30 p.m.

■ Childfest celebration, Victory Branch Church of God in Christ, 1004 McKean Ave., Donora, 1 p.m.

■ Donora High School Class of 1943 luncheon get-together, Campa's Restaurant, 1:30 p.m.

■ "Scaryopolis 2," Sampey Park, Perryopolis, 7 to 11 p.m.

■ Halloween masquerade dance, sponsored by Bentleyville Recreation Board, Ave Maria School, Ellsworth, 8 p.m. to midnight.

■ Costume/birthday party, sponsored by Increasing College/Community Singles, Holiday Bar, Monessen, 10 p.m.

■ Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Blast Furnace Department reunion, Raven Club, 252 Donner Ave., Monessen, 5 p.m.

■ Halloween happening, (tarot, angel, fair readings, psychic, palm reader) Monongahela Area Historical Society, 230 W. Main St., 6 to 10 p.m.

■ Craft show, Bentleyville United Methodist Church, 712 Main St., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Shipmates change meeting date

Because of Election Day, the Mid-Mon Valley Shipmates will meet 7 p.m. Monday at the James C. Ford Post 949 American Legion, Carroll Township.

Fall festival set in California

The California United Methodist Church, 227 Third and Liberty streets, will hold a fall festival 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday. Sandwiches, salads, desserts, drinks and pies will be sold. Takeouts will be available, along with local delivery.

Soup, sandwich, dessert sale set

The Calvary United Presbyterian Church, Eighth Street and Thompson Avenue, Donora, will have a soup, sandwich and dessert sale 11 a.m. Tuesday. Purchases can be eaten-in or taken out. Local deliveries will be available. Call (724) 379-8285.

K of C Council plans meeting

Knights of Columbus Council 954, Monessen, will meet Wednesday at the council rooms on Grand Boulevard. Officers meet at 6:30 p.m., members at 7:30 p.m.

Auxiliary plans penny party bingo

The Victory Hill Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a penny party bingo Nov. 6 at the Victory Hill Social Center, 27 Jones Lane, Monongahela. Featured will be a grocery basket, Chinese auction, 50/50, a money tree and ham barbecue. Doors open at 6 p.m., with bingo starting at 7 p.m.

VFW Post 1190 plans meeting

Allison Lescanic Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1190 will meet 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Mon Valley Community Health Center, fourth floor, Monessen.

Donora Library board to meet

The Donora Library board of directors will meet 6 p.m. Wednesday at the library.

Library trustees schedule meeting

The Bentleyville Public Library board of trustees will meet 7 p.m. Wednesday at the library.

SAL to meet in Carroll Twp.

The Sons of the American Legion will meet 8 p.m. Wednesday at the James C. Ford Post 949 American Legion, Carroll Township.

Rams Gridiron Club to meet

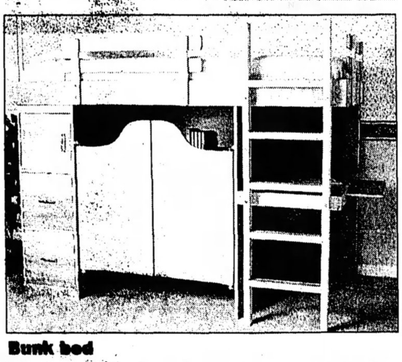
The Ringgold Rams Gridiron Club will meet 7 p.m. Wednesday in room 133 of the high school.

Rummage sale set in S. Brownsville

A rummage sale will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday at the South Brownsville United Methodist Church, 412 Second St.

PROJECT OF THE WEEK

Bunk bed a clever combo



Bunk bed

A clever combination of a bed, desk and closet, this sturdy and attractive bunk bed project is a great way for do-it-yourselfers to create more space without remodeling. With a footprint the size of a standard twin bed, the project frees up the rest of the room for toys, games or even a sibling. And not only is it perfect for smaller rooms, but kids love the "fun factor."

The bed holds a standard twin mattress, has railings for safety and is accessed by a permanently attached ladder. Down below, there's a desk with plenty of room for a computer (complete with a handy pull-out keyboard shelf) and a big closet behind swinging doors. The unit also has two large drawers and a big cabinet in front.

The project requires five sheets of plywood (birch as pictured, but other woods will work), a small quantity of standard lumber, common hardware, fasteners and finish of choice. Mostly straight cuts, full-size patterns for the curves and simple construction make it easy enough for most woodworkers. Since the project isn't easy to move around, final assembly should be accomplished where the bunk bed will be used.

The completed project measures about 78 inches long by 54 inches tall by 42 inches deep.

The 3-in-1 Bunk Bed plan, No. 844, is $9.95 and includes step-by-step instructions with photos, construction diagrams, a shopping list and cutting schedule and a toll-free help line for project questions.

A package of three plans for kids' beds, No. C161, is $22.95 and includes this plan plus plans for a bunk bed and a car bed. Please include $4 for postage and handling and allow about two weeks for delivery.

To order by mail, clip this article and send it with a check or money order to U-Bild Features, c/o *The Valley Independent*, 3800 Oceanic Drive, Ste. 107, Oceanside, CA 92056. To order by credit card, or to request a free catalog, call 1-800-828-2453. Visit U-Bild on the Web at u-bild.com.

Valley Grapevine deadline set

Items for Valley Grapevine should be submitted at least five publishing days prior to scheduled meetings or events.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: B equals C

"NHDNRA KFE XNZZLFP·FNZHR LC EWF XVZCLCK. EWNE DNR, LM LE PVFAC'E DVZU VIE, RVI WNSFC'E DNAEFP N DWVHF PNR." - XLBUFR ZVVCFR

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else." - Judy Garland

(c) 2009 by NEA, Inc. 10-30

When submitting ...

When submitting information for anniversaries, weddings and engagements, please list the first and last names of all people. We will not run items that list people, for example, as Mr. and Mrs. John Doe.

The Valley Independent

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MONDAY: 4:30PM, FRIDAY
SUNDAY: 11AM, WEDNESDAY

DAILY: 2PM DAY PRIOR
SUNDAY: 11AM, WEDNESDAY

DAILY: 2:30PM DAY PRIOR
MONDAY: 4:30PM, FRIDAY
SUNDAY: 11AM, WEDNESDAY

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PRE-PAY WITH

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Applications are being accepted for Ft/Pt C.N.A.'s

Please visit the facility to complete an application.

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jobs & more

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10+ years experience in the commercial/industrial construction industry on projects ranging from $1M to $15M. Architectural degree with construction experience preferred. Self-motivated, aggressive and willing to contribute to company growth. Background with Design/Build projects a plus. Ground up experience necessary. Computer knowledge required. Competitive salary & full benefits offered for full time position. Send resume with salary requirement to: Box 961 c/o The Valley Independent Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062. Fax 724-276-1509, or email to: careers42@yahoo.com EOE

EXPERIENCED PIZZA OR LINE COOK. Paolo's 724-489-4444 Apply in person.

KEYBOARDING INSTRUCTOR Post-Secondary Career School has a part-time position avail. www.dec.edu/employment

NOTICE TO READERS:

While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate the background of any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

TEACHER AIDES:

Full-time and Part-time positions working with special needs students in Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties. $11.95 per hour, no benefits. Minimum of an Associate's Degree or 48 college credits is required. Send non-teaching application, cover letter, resume, transcripts, three (3) letters of recommendation, Acts 34, 114, and 151 clearances to Intermediate Unit 1, Attn: HR, One Intermediate Unit Drive, Coal Center, PA 15423. Applications are located at www.iu1.org/hr/ Incomplete application packets are not accepted. EOE.

THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER INSERTER
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The Valley Independent
Eastgate 19
Monessen, PA 15062

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Must be:
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Eastgate 19
Monessen, PA 15062

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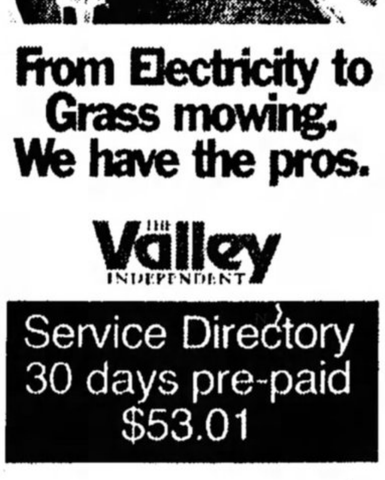
Service Directory



From Electricity to Grass mowing. We have the pros.

The Valley Independent

Service Directory 30 days pre-paid $53.01

Bid Notices Legals

Fire Alarm System Repair & Replacement Project
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for the "Fire Alarm System Repair and Replacement Project" for Washington County, Washington, Pennsylvania, will be received at the Office of the County Controller, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 403, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301 until 11:00 A.M. Prevailing Time on Wednesday, November 25, 2009 and immediately thereafter will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Purchasing Office, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 402, Washington, PA 15301 (Late bids are not accepted).

A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Friday, November 6th, 2009 in the first floor lobby of the Courthouse Square Office Building, 100 W. Beau St., Washington, PA 15301. This will be the only opportunity to view the site. Failure to view the site does not relieve the contractor from meeting all of the requirements of the bid documents.

All the bids must be submitted as ONE ORIGINAL & THREE COPIES PLUS ONE COMPACT DISC CONTAINING PDF FILE(S) according to the specifications and upon a uniform proposal blank. Complete packages of plans and specifications may be obtained in PDF format on compact disc at the Washington County Purchasing Office, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 402, Washington, PA 15301 at no fee. Compact disc will be mailed for a non-refundable fee of $5.00. Bidders may fax their written request to the Washington County Purchasing Office at 724-250-6555. A non-refundable fee of $50.00 will be charged for a complete package of plans and specifications (hard copy) with all checks made payable to the Washington County Commissioners for each set obtained at the Washington County Purchasing Office, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 402, Washington, PA 15301. Bid packages (hard copy) will be mailed for an additional non-refundable fee of $20.00.

Bid must be accompanied by cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank good faith check, or other irrevocable letter of credit or bid bond in the amount of 10% of the total amount of bid and made payable to the order of the Washington County Commissioners. Only the Bid Securities listed will be accepted.

The Washington County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bid proposals.

Any questions regarding the contract documents should be faxed at least 10 days prior to bid opening to Nancy L. Bielawski, CPPO, CPPB, Director of Purchasing at 1-724-250-6555. Questions may be emailed to bielawsn@co.washington.pa.us.

SEALED BID ENVELOPE MUST BE MARKED:
BID: Fire Alarm Repair & Replacement Project
CONTRACT NO. 112509-Fire Alarm

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LARRY MAGGI, CHAIRMAN
BRACKEN BURNS
DIANA L. IREY

ATTEST:

MARY E. HELICKE
CHIEF CLERK
10/30;11/3

General Jobs

PART-TIME TELLER position for local Federal Credit Union. 3 day work week. Send resume and cover letter to Box 962 c/o The Valley Independent Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062.

U.S. ARMY RECRUITING

17-40 year old males and females. $84,000 college money thru GI Bill/ student loan repayment. Choose from over 150 careers. 30 days paid vacation per year/ bonuses. Free medical & dental insurance. Contact:
SFC Powell, SFC Snodgrass
or SFC Roberts at:
724-929-5432 Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm

Automotive Jobs

AUTO TECHNICIAN must have Ford experience, tools and PA inspection license. Ground floor opportunity at Ford of Uniontown. Call Stanley Welsh at 724-425-5980.

Medical Jobs

RECEPTIONIST

Needed part-time, evening hours required for fast paced medical office. Competitive pay. Experience preferred. Email resume to: medhr@live.com

Business Opportunity Jobs

7-DAY MOTOR ROUTE AVAILABLE
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Call Jason At
724-272-4437

legals

Estate Notices Legals

Iacoboni, Ralph
ESTATE NOTICE

Letters of testamentary on the estate of RALPH IACOBONI, late of Rostraver Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them without delay to:

Romilda Iacoboni, Executrix
737 Green Street
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Timothy M. Maatta, Attorney
513 Schoonmaker Avenue
Monessen, PA 15062
10/16,23,30

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Estate Notices Legals

Neil, Yolanda A.
ESTATE NOTICE

Estate of YOLANDA A. NEIL, late of North Belle Vernon Borough, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Letters Testamentary upon the above Estate having been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to all those indebted thereto to make immediate payment, and to all those having claims or demands to present them for settlement and/or consideration by the undersigned.

Carl L. Neil, Executor
4474 Route 136
Greensburg, PA 15601

Richard C. Mudrick
Attorney at Law
300 Fallowfield Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
10/23,30;11/6

Sobotak, Michael
ADMINISTRATOR NOTICE

Letters of Administration on the estate of MICHAEL SOBOTAK, Court Term No. 63-09-01097, late of Carroll Township, Washington County, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned by the Register of Wills of Washington County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them to the undersigned, duly authenticated for settlement.

JAMES W. HAINES, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1202 WEST MAIN STREET
MONONGAHELA, PA 15063

Paula M. Englert, Administratrix
440 East Main Street
Monongahela, PA 15063
10/23,30;11/6

Welsh, Louise L.
ESTATE NOTICE

ESTATE OF LOUISE L. WELSH, deceased, late of Charleroi, Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Letters Testamentary on the above Estate having been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to those indebted thereto to make immediate payment and to those having claims or demands to present them for settlement.

Daniel D. Welsh
5028 Rosecrest Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Executor

KEITH A. BASSI, ESQUIRE
Bassi, McCune & Vreeland, P.C.
P.O. Box 144
111 Fallowfield Avenue
Charleroi, PA 15022
10/16,23,30

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Bid Notices Legals

Emergency Maintenance Supplies
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for the provision of "Emergency Maintenance Supplies" for Washington County, Washington, PA 15301 will be received at the Office of the County Controller, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 403, Courthouse Square Office Building, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301, until 11:00 A.M. Prevailing Time, on Wednesday, November 18th, 2009 and immediately thereafter will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Purchasing Office, Room 402 of the Washington County Courthouse Square Building. Late bids are not accepted.

All bids must be submitted as ONE ORIGINAL + THREE COPIES according to the specifications and upon a uniform proposal blank. Specifications and proposal blanks may be picked up at the Washington County Purchasing Office, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 402, Washington, PA 15301 or by submitting a written request to this address. Bidders may fax their written request to the Washington County Purchasing Office at 724-250-6555.

The above request for proposal may be obtained from the Washington County website at: http://www.co.washington.pa.us. Vendors receiving bid proposals from web site are responsible for obtaining changes from web site.

Bid Securities are not required.

SEALED BID ENVELOPE MUST BE MARKED:

BID: Emergency Maintenance Supplies
CONTRACT NO. 111909-1EMS

The Washington County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bid proposals.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

LARRY MAGGI-CHAIRMAN
BRACKEN BURNS,
COMMISSIONER
DIANA L. IREY,
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

MARY E. HELICKE
CHIEF CLERK
10/27,30

Plumbing Supplies
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for the provision of "Plumbing Supplies" for Washington County, Washington, PA 15301 will be received at the Office of the County Controller, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 403, Courthouse Square Office Building, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301, until 11:00 A.M. Prevailing Time, on Wednesday, November 18th, 2009 and immediately thereafter will be publicly opened and read aloud in the Purchasing Office, Room 402 of the Washington County Courthouse Square Building. Late bids are not accepted.

All bids must be submitted as ONE ORIGINAL + THREE COPIES according to the specifications and upon a uniform proposal blank. Specifications and proposal blanks may be picked up at the Washington County Purchasing Office, 100 West Beau Street, Suite 402, Washington, PA 15301 or by submitting a written request to this address. Bidders may fax their written request to the Washington County Purchasing Office at 724-250-6555.

The above request for proposal may be obtained from the Washington County website at: http://www.co.washington.pa.us. Vendors receiving bid proposals from web site are responsible for obtaining changes from web site.

Bid Securities are not required.

SEALED BID ENVELOPE MUST BE MARKED:
BID: Plumbing Supplies
CONTRACT NO. 111809-3PS

The Washington County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bid proposals.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

LARRY MAGGI-CHAIRMAN
BRACKEN BURNS-
COMMISSIONER
DIANA L. IREY-COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

MARY E. HELICKE
CHIEF CLERK
10/30;11/5

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Meeting Notices Legals

NOTICE OF HEARING
ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP
ZONING HEARING BOARD
TO: CITIZENS OF
ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP

THE ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 201 MUNICIPAL DRIVE, BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA 15012 ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009 AT 6:30 P.M., TO HEAR THE FOLLOWING CASES.

1. Thomas Kelly, 870 Rostraver Road, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 is requesting a Variance for parking. The applicants' proposed use is parking for Millers Auto Parts store. The property, tax map 56-16-00-0-037, is located at 870 Rostraver Road and is presently zoned B-2.
2. Donald Panepinto c/o Glimcher Group, Inc., 500 Grant St., Suite 2000, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 and Century 21 Frontier Realty, 780 Tri-County Lane, Suite 102, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 is requesting a Sign Variance for individual and total square footage of signage. The applicant's proposed use is an advertising sign. The property, tax map 56-16-00-0-038-60-002, is located at 780 Tri-County Lane and is presently zoned B-2.
3. James and Shannon Poindexter, 352 Concord Lane, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 are requesting a Setback Variance from another building. The applicants' proposed use is to construct a garage. The property, tax map 56-14-00-0-025, is located at 352 Concord Lane and is presently zoned A-1.
4. Tom and Allyene Kelly, 870 Rostraver Road, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 and MedExpress Urgent Care, 1751 Earl Core Road, Morgantown, WV 26505 are requesting Sign Variance for the individual and total square footage of signage. The applicants' proposed use is an advertising sign. The property, tax map 56-16-00-0-037, is located at 860 Rostraver Road and is presently zoned B-2.

All parties interested or wishing to be heard are invited to attend.

**NOTE: The applicant(s)/their representative MUST ATTEND this hearing in order for action to be taken on the request.

John Bedell, Secretary
Rostraver Township
Zoning Hearing Board
Municipal Building
201 Municipal Drive
Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania 15012
10/28,30;11/4

real estate

Houses/Fayette Real Estate-For Sale

BROWNSVILLE:
4 BEDROOM Tudor. Move in condition. In ground pool. Too many amenities to list. Must see. Asking $229,921.

FANTASTIC rental or residential 3 bedroom home. Minutes to Cal U. $53,921.

2 BEDROOM great starter. Being sold as is. Spacious rooms. Move in. $44,921.

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DONORA- duplex, good rental unit. For sale by owner. Needs minor work. $11,000 or best offer. Call 724-929-2820.

DONORA- rent to own 2 bedroom home, needs work. Little money down, flexible terms. Please call 724-787-5467.

DONORA Great Price! Live in one and rent the other! Great 3 bedroom home with attached garage. Shared yard with second house. Collect the rent to pay the mortgage! Steal of a deal! $52,500.

FALLOWFIELD TWP. New Price. Beautiful brick ranch! 3 bedroom with great yard in a wonderful neighborhood. Come take a look today! $59,500.

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-483-3004

Houses/Westmoreland
Real Estate-For Sale

MONESSEN- 8 Rex Dr. For Sale By Owner. 3 bedroom brick ranch. Taking bids. Appointments only, please call 724-317-8289

MONESSEN 2 bedroom with possible 3rd bedroom. This spacious brick Cape Cod has many updates, hardwood floors & a huge finished basement. Nice patio overlooks a peaceful private back yard. First time yours for $79,900.

MONESSEN 3 bedroom, 1 ½ story brick Cape Cod in the City Park. Has 3 full baths, living room has stone fireplace, Master bedroom with skylights & large bath, family room & separate den! Good news it's available for $124,900.

ROSTRAVER TWP. 4 bedroom, 2 story brick/vinyl with 2 ½ baths, 2 story entry & living room, hardwood floors, first floor laundry. Master bath with corner Jacuzzi tub, neutral paint, truly a million-aire's hideaway for only $300,000.

Century 21
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724-929-2180

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Houses/Westmoreland
Real Estate-For Sale

MONESSEN City Park area beautiful 3 bedroom brick ranch, completely remodeled. All new hardwood floors, windows, roof, doors, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, professionally landscaped. Finished basement w/fireplace & bar. Lots of storage & garage. By owner, must see. $129,900. 724-331-1811.

NORTH BELLE VERNON 2 bedroom, 2 ½ bath, completely remodeled, corner lot. By owner. Call 302-373-7572.

Houses/Other Areas
Real Estate-For Sale

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Completely updated throughout. 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, kitchen, dining room, living room. Fenced in yard. Ready to wheel and deal....$49,900.

WHITE GLOVE CLEAN
Cape Cod home on a corner lot. Ample storage throughout. 2 bedroom, eat-in kitchen, living room, dining room and full basement. A must see. $49,900.

NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES
201 ASSOCIATES
724-929-1370

Apartments/Fayette
Real Estate-For Rent

BELLE VERNON LOWER unfurnished, 2 bedroom, clean, peaceful. $395 inc. heat, garbage, appliances. No pets. 724-323-7161.

BELLE VERNON LOWER 1 bedroom, refrigerator & stove. Heat, water, sewage inc. $470 per month. 724-684-7505.

FAYETTE CITY- large 2 bedroom, 1st floor, laundry hook-ups. $575 includes water, sewage & garbage. Call 412-583-6829.

NEAR BELLE VERNON- 2 bedroom apt., stove & refrigerator. $595 incl. all utilities. No pets. 724-929-4258 or 724-483-2290.

Apartments/Washington
Real Estate-For Rent

CHARLEROI (2) 2 bedroom apartments $400+ utilities. (1) studio apartment $275+ electric. Call 724-873-7260.

Apartments/Washington
Real Estate-For Rent

CHARLEROI-1 bedroom apartment for rent. $475 per month, all utilities included except electric. Please call 412-583-6829.

CHARLEROI- large, clean 1 bedroom apts., new carpet, furnished $250-$300 per month, 1 month free. Call David 1-888-477-9773.

CHARLEROI- 1 bedroom, living room, kitchen, bath, stove & refrig, washer, dryer, w/w carpet. $595 incl. water, garbage, sewage & heat. No pets. 724-554-0637.

CHARLEROI 1 & 2 bedroom. Includes electric & water, parking. Starting at $325 per month. Call 724-483-0939.

CHARLEROI
1 & 2 Bedroom Apts For Rent
With intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/ dryer. $350-$500. Security deposit. No pets.
Call 724-396-1140 or 724-292-1189

CHARLEROI 1 bedroom above garage, clean, private, stove, refrigerator, water, sewage, garbage inc. $295 + security, references, credit check. 724-239-6290, 412-996-8515.

CHARLEROI 2 ½ bedroom, stove, refrig. heat, water, sewage, garbage inc. $575. 724-518-1877.

★ CHARLEROI And DONORA ★
1 & 2 Bedroom Apts. Clean & Secure
Call 412-398-9306

DONORA 1 bedrooms, stove & refrigerator, large living room, eat-in kitchen, w/w carpeting. Ready now. No pets. Call 724-379-6492.

DONORA 2nd floor, 2 bedroom with balcony & basement, partial yard. On bus line. $400+ utilities. Call 412-773-0133.

DONORA convenient downtown location, 2 bedroom. $350 per month plus utilities. Call 724-258-5536.

DONORA Nice size 1 bedroom, tile floors, updated kitchen, all appliances. Peaceful neighborhood. Great Dane Realty 724-684-9600.

FALLOWFIELD TWP. nice 1 bedroom apt. $295 water, sewage, garbage included. Call 724-929-4936.

FINLEYVILLE 2 bedroom upstairs apartment, clean. $500 per month plus utilities.
Call 724-942-4658.

MONONGAHELA 423 Parkinson St. 2 bedrooms. $275+ utilities & security deposit. 724-825-5761 or 724-258-9532.

MONONGAHELA convenient downtown location, 1 bedroom. $350 per month plus electric. Call 724-258-5536.

MONONGAHELA wonderful 1 & 2 bedroom apts. Convenient locations. Three apts. available have your pick. Renting from $400-$425+ utilities. Freshly painted & ready to move in. Call Peggy for more information 724-986-5553.

MONONGAHELA- 3 bedroom apartment, +90 heat, central air, laundry room, dishwasher, refrigerator, stove. No pets. $550 + utilities & security. 724-258-2718 leave message.

MONONGAHELA 1 bedroom, 2nd floor apartment, clean. $375 per month plus utilities.
Call 724-942-4658.

Apartments/Washington
Real Estate-For Rent

MONONGAHELA 1 bedroom, appliances. No pets, non-smoker. $375 per month plus electric. Call 724-258-9674.

MONONGAHELA 2 bedroom, private, 1st floor, fireplace, back yard. $430 per month plus utilities. Call 724-258-2473.

N.CHARLEROI- 313½ Sheppard St. 2 bedrooms. ALSO: MONONGAHELA- 425 Jackson St. 1 bedroom ranch. Each: $425+ utilities, security & references. No pets. Call 724-518-5440.

Apartments/Westmoreland
Real Estate-For Rent

BELLE VERNON VERY NICE, HUGE 2 bedroom, all appliances. A/C. $750 inc. utilities. Sec. & references. No pets. 724-942-2493.

Apartments/Other Areas
Real Estate-For Rent

BELLE VERNON & MONONGAHELA
Modern 1 bedroom apartments. Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, balcony, storage, security. Starting at $375 + utilities.
Call 412-257-0902

Houses/Fayette
Real Estate-For Rent

BELLE VERNON nice 3 bedroom, freshly painted, new carpets, garage, absolutely no pets. $750+ utilities, sec. dep., credit check & references. 724-483-5977.

WASHINGTON TWP. nice 2 bedroom, just upgraded, large rooms, C/A, no pets, non-smoking. $600+ utilities. Call 724-326-4834.

Houses/Washington
Real Estate-For Rent

CHARLEROI 3 bedroom home, wall/wall carpeting, nice kitchen, dining room, living room. $550+ utilities. Call 412-403-5967.

CHARLEROI 3 bedroom, equipped kitchen, fenced yard. No pets. $450 plus security deposit. Hud approved. Call 724-258-8635.

DONORA- 2 houses: 3 bedrooms each, 1 bath, central air, parking. Each $560 per month. Section 8 ok. Call 1-718-622-3090.

DONORA 2 bedroom house unfurnished, fenced yard, on bus route. No pets. $400+ security deposit. Call 724-379-8019.

DONORA
2 bedroom house, bath, A/C, yard. Some utilities. Hud accepted.
NORTH CHARLEROI
3 bedroom, kitchen, living room, 1 ½ bath, A/C. Some utilities. Hud accepted.
724-554-1523

DONORA
3/4 Bedroom
SECTION 8 OK
1/2 duplex, newly renovated. Additional room, kitchen, living room, central air.
Call 724-544-5804

DONORA excellent condition 3 bedroom, nice, clean, full basement & yard. No pets. Call 724-929-2818.

DONORA Rent to own. 2/3 bedroom. $2,000 down. $350.00 per month.
Call 724-875-9123.

Houses/Other Areas
Real Estate-For Rent

Need Help Renting Your Property Out?
We're Expanding Our Property Management Department
Call Tom Simon at 724-929-9699
Howard Hanna
Simon Real Estate Services
724-929-9699

Houses/Washington
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MONONGAHELA
Elegant Executive
Totally remodeled stone home, 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths & (2) 1/2 baths, fireplace, hardwood floors, 2 kitchens (1 w/stainless steel appliances), 3 car garage, large yard, patio, deck with fireplace. Inground pool available. Lease. $1575 month + utilities, security, references.
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NORTH CHARLEROI 2 bedroom ½ duplex. $375 plus security deposit.
Call 724-267-4405.

STOCKDALE ½ duplex, 2 bedrooms, recently remodeled. $500.00 plus utilities and security deposit. Call 724-366-6170.

Houses/Westmoreland
Real Estate-For Rent

MONESSEN- 3 bedroom, excellent condition. Peaceful neighborhood. Contact Great Dane Realty at 724-684-9600.

MONESSEN- 928 Locust. Peaceful area. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Stove & dishwasher included. $525 per month. Call 724-689-7551.

MONESSEN 2 1/2 bedrooms, back yard, off-street parking. $560 inc. water, sewage, garbage. 724-518-1677

MONESSEN 3 bedroom house, 1 ½ baths, off street parking. $595 per month plus utilities. Call 724-696-9450.

MONESSEN City Park area 56 Scenery Dr. Wonderful 4 bedroom brick, new roof, hardwood floors, new windows, nice kitchen, C/A, garage, level lot, great street. $725+ utilities. 724-331-1811.

ROSTRAVER/Belle Vernon very nice 2 bedroom ½ duplex, air, laundry hook-up, cathedral ceiling, convenient to 51 & 70. **$700 INCLUDES heat, water, garbage.** No pets. Hud ok. 412-867-6160 or 724-261-7031.

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Real Estate

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Commercial Real Estate
Real Estate

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miscellaneous & notices

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Service Directory Ads Work. For Only $59.77 per month. Call 724-684-5200.

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New & old work. Free est., fully ins.
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chain link, wood, vinyl, hand rails & all your fencing needs.
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HERK'S HAULING
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all your home needs.Int. & Ext. const. & renovations. 724-258-2473.

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Topsoil, mulches, mushroom composte, deco stone, river stone, limestone, sand, Keystone, retaining walls & more.
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& Fretz Mini Warehouse 724-684-6602, Monessen. Local moving & storage.

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Experienced & Insured. Free est.
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EVANS PAINTING
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PLASTERING - New/repair work. Hardcoat/drywall fin. Barry Winters, 724-929-9765.

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Best deals! Free est. Henry.
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$185 window install.
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DONORA

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For Your Personal Care Facility, Call
The Classified Dept. at
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Appliances
Merchandise

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Articles
Merchandise

2 IN 1 AYER Pop A Shot Basketball Game 7 ft. tall $75. Hit-a-way $10. Elbow, knee, palm pads S,M,L sets $5 ea. 724-483-1801.

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What this means for you:
NO BILLS
NO STAMPS
EASY & IMMEDIATE AD PLACEMENT
We accept Cash, Check & all Major Credit Cards.
Call to place your ad TODAY!

BABY ITEMS several and toddler toys, $5.00-$15.00 Call 724-249-4233.

BOOKENDS pair 6 ½" 24% lead crystal, new in box, makes a beautiful Christmas gift, $30.00. Call 724-929-4980.

BOWLING BALLS for sale, (4), $5.00 each Call 724-684-5492.

BOY'S fall/winter name brand shirts size 6/7, 7/8 $10.00 a bag. Call 724-379-6663 or 724-516-1845.

Articles
Merchandise

BOY'S fall/winter name brand clothes size 4/5 $10.00 a bag. Call 724-379-6663 or 724-516-1845.

CHRISTMAS TREE 6 ½ ft., pre-lit, excellent condition, $50.00 Call 724-326-4276.

CLOTHES HANGERS Joy Mangano, new, 150, $40.00 Call 724-379-8026.

COMPUTER DESK excellent condition, $20.00 Call 724-797-0895.

COSTUME Mouse/Cat woman's size small with tail, cute, $8.00 Call 724-263-2829.

COSTUME Pirate/Gypsy, medium up to size 14, $10.00 Call 724-263-2829.

COSTUME Vampire up to size 14 $10.00 Call 724-263-2829.

FILE CABINET metal, almond, good condition, $10.00 Call 724-258-3389.

FREE CONCRETE BLOCK 6"x8"x16" solids and 4"x12"x16" solids, you haul. Call 724-483-4978.

GIRL'S 3T clothes, several bags, winter & summer, $10.00 per bag Call 724-249-4233.

GIRL'S fall/winter name brand clothes size 10, $10.00 a bag. Call 724-379-6663 or 724-516-1845.

GIRL'S fall/winter name brand clothes size 8, $10.00 a bag. Call 724-379-6663 or 724-516-1845.

GIRL'S name brand pants and jeans, 6 pair, size 7, $5.00. Call 724-379-6663 or 724-516-1845.

GIRL'S winter coats size 6,7,8,10 name brands, $10.00 each. Call 724-379-6663 or 724-516-1845.

Articles
Merchandise

HARMAN Kardon CD player-recorder, $50.00. Onkyo CD changer, holds 6 CD's $75.00. Call 724-258-3389.

IRON CITY Beer Cans Techlight, Old Frothingelosh, about 50 different, $1.00 each. Call 724-483-3156.

KENMORE 12 cup coffee pot, $10.00. McGregor golf bag, 3 clubs, 100 practice balls, $10.00. 724-258-3389.

LITTLE TIKES play kitchen and play food, one bagful, $25.00 Call 724-249-4233.

MICROWAVE STAND like new $50.00 Call 724-929-4980.

PAINTING Indian $85.00 Call 724-929-4980.

PAINTING Indian $295.00 Call 724-929-4980.

PAINTING Indian $175.00 Call 724-929-4980.

PAINTING original lighthouse $165.00 Call 724-929-4980.

PC-XG12 CD portable component system, holds 3 CD's, large boom box type, $75.00. Call 724-258-3389.

PILLOW WEDGE New $10.00 Call 724-929-4980.

ROYALTY pedestal bowl 24% full lead crystal, new in box, beautiful, you must see, $40.00. Call 724-929-4980.

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TV Emerson small with VCR, good for kitchen or kid's room, works, $15.00 Call 724-263-2829.

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LOST 3 year old female black Newfoundland, family pet, vicinity Roscoe area. Reward. Call 724-938-2517.

LOST female cat, gray with tan, vicinity Washington Twp. by Marion Elementary. Call 724-929-3322.

LOST male cat, light and dark gray, Tabby. Vicinity Speers. Call 724-483-4726.

LOST male Cat, 1 ½ years old, vicinity 5th and Chess, Monongahela. Reward. Call 724-258-7123.

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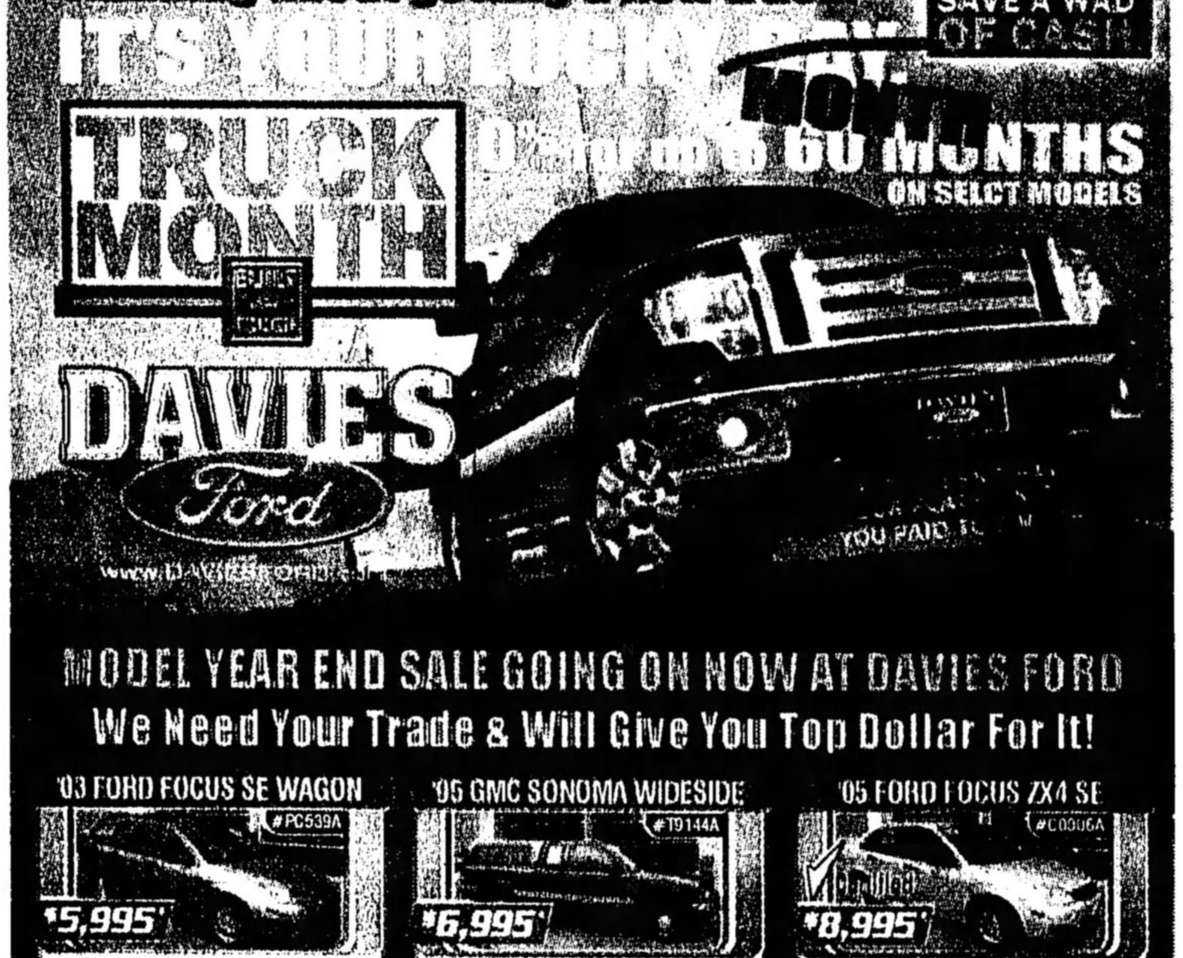

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Personals/Greetings

ASTRO ❖ GRAPH
Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday
SATURDAY, OCT. 31, 2009

SCORPIO October 24 through November 21

Prospects for accomplishing your aims in the year ahead look far more hopeful than they have in many years. Negative conditions that affected the realization of your goals will finally be alleviated.

SCORPIO (**Oct. 24-Nov. 22**) -- An entrenched family situation might suddenly start moving toward a positive conclusion. Everyone in the household will be happy with the results.

SAGITTARIUS (**Nov. 23-Dec. 21**) -- Your gift of persuasion will be rather awesome at this time, and it can be used to your advantage. If you need or want something, you shouldn't have any trouble bringing it to life.

CAPRICORN (**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**) -- Focus on getting richer because conditions are exceptionally promising with regard to shoring up your material position and adding to your resources or earnings.

AQUARIUS (**Jan. 20-Feb. 19**) -- Your path to success will be wide open, and all stumbling blocks will be removed. Get going immediately.

PISCES (**Feb. 20-March 20**) -- Keep to yourself what you hope to accomplish, and your possibilities for success will be greatly enhanced. With no one around to stop you, you'll make faster progress.

ARIES (**March 21-April 19**) -- Even with all the negative thinkers in the world, a positive outlook will help realize a big hope of yours. Don't let the contrarians keep you from your appointed destiny.

TAURUS (**April 20-May 20**) -- In situations that would normally stymie others, you'll be the one who can provide many brilliant solutions. In fact, the more challenging the situation, the more ingenious you become.

GEMINI (**May 21-June 20**) -- With your positive outlook, concentrate on plans that not only affect your immediate circumstances but also your affairs down the line. The answers will be there.

CANCER (**June 21-July 22**) -- The perfect person will be there for you when it comes to things you cannot do on your own. You're lucky to have a competent ally appear at the right moment.

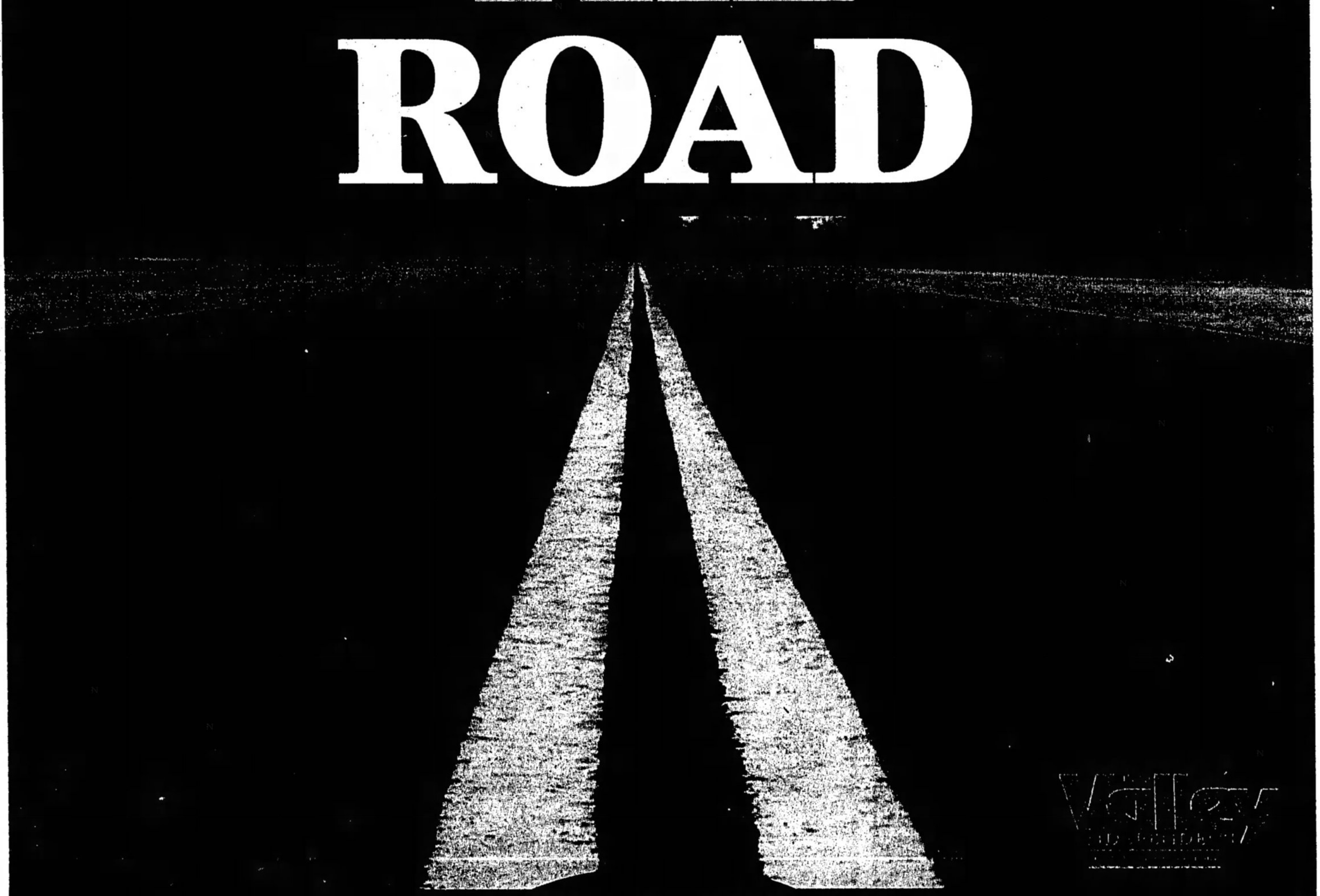
LEO (**July 23-Aug. 22**) -- Because you're luckier than usual when it comes to money matters, it behooves you to devote as much time as possible to financial situations that have profitable overtones. Don't waste this day.

VIRGO (**Aug. 23-Sept. 22**) -- When you sense Lady Luck's presence, be prepared to move quickly. She will be creating greater opportunities than usual, especially in areas that affect your work or career.

LIBRA (**Sept. 23-Oct. 23**) -- Someone you know socially will be a tremendous help in furthering a new involvement. Do your part to strengthen this relationship.

Fall...

ON THE ROAD



October 2009

Prepare your car for the big chill

(ARA) — A few minutes in the garage before the bitter cold hits could help prevent a more time-consuming and unpleasant experience during the winter.

Cold weather will only make existing problems worse, according to the experts at the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). It's a good idea to read the owner's manual and follow the manufacturer's recommended service schedules.

Here are a few more winter car tips that are easy and simple to do:

■ Tires – Worn tires can be extremely dangerous in rain, snow and on ice. Examine tires for remaining tread life and uneven wearing. Be sure to check the sidewalls for cuts and nicks as well. All-season radials or winter tires are a wise investment for those who must drive in inclement weather regularly. Check tire pressure and rotate the tires as recommended. Don't forget to check your spare and be sure the jack functions properly.

■ Cooling system – Regularly check the level, condition and concentration of the coolant. A 50/50 mix of antifreeze and water is usually recommended. Check hoses for cracks and leaks.

■ Windshield wipers – Check wiper blades and replace them if needed. Rubber-clad blades can fight ice buildup. Stock up on windshield washer solvent. If you don't have an ice scraper, get one before you need it.

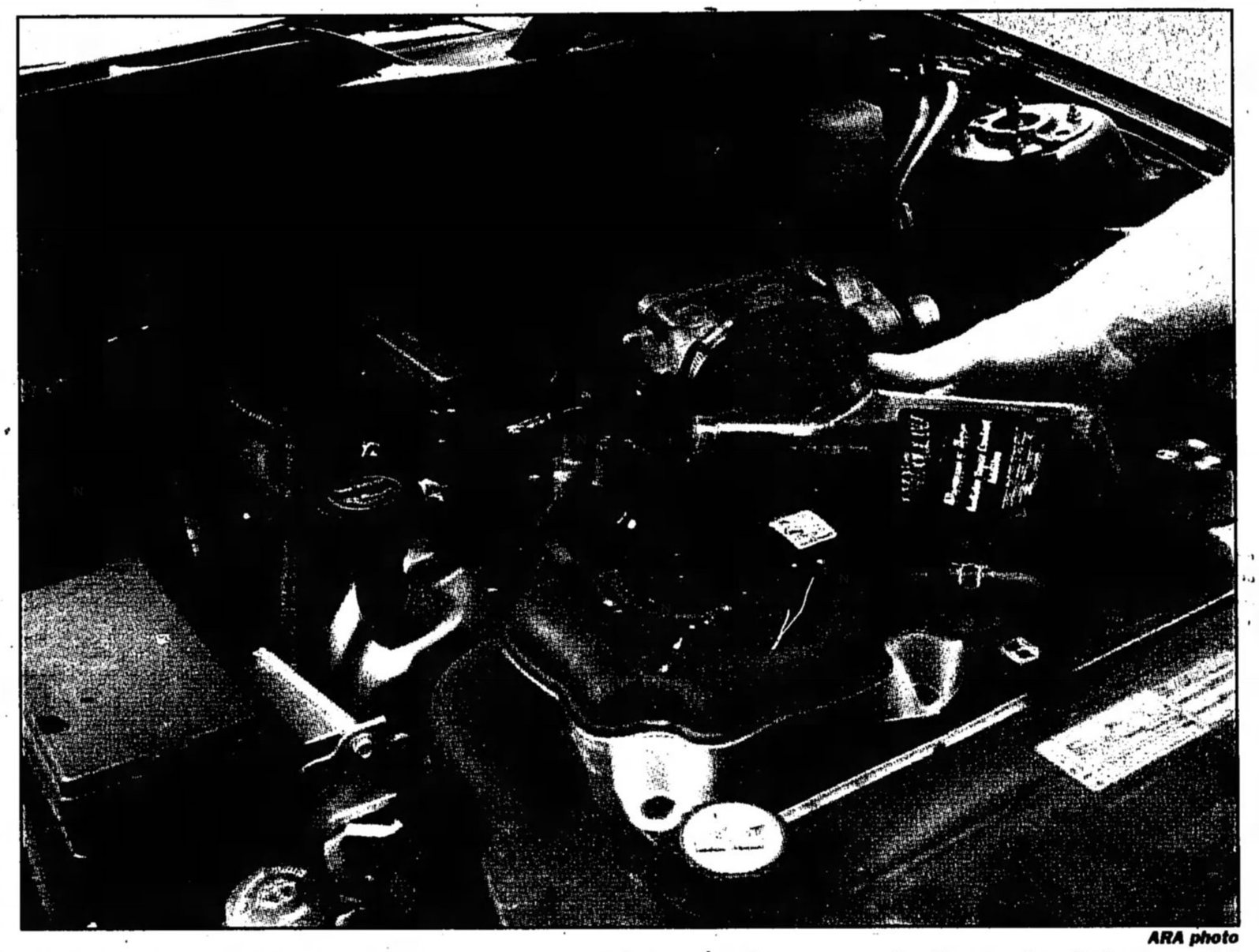
■ Battery – If your battery is beyond its recommended service life, replace it. Top any low battery cells with distilled water. Clean and tighten battery terminals to ensure electricity gets to the starter on chilly mornings. If there's corrosion, clean it with a mixture of baking soda and water and put on a set of battery washers to keep corrosion from coming back. Make sure the battery terminals and hold-downs are tight. Clean and lubricate hinges and the hood latch.

■ Fuel – It's important to keep gas lines from freezing in cold weather. A full gas tank will help keep moisture and ice from forming. Particularly cold weather may warrant a fuel deicer. A block heater is another option that is fairly inexpensive and easy to use.

■ Motor oil – The easiest way to protect and improve the performance of your car is to upgrade to a high-performance synthetic motor oil and change the oil regularly. Synthetic motor oils have better low-temperature fluidity and a lower coefficient of friction than mineral-based motor oils.

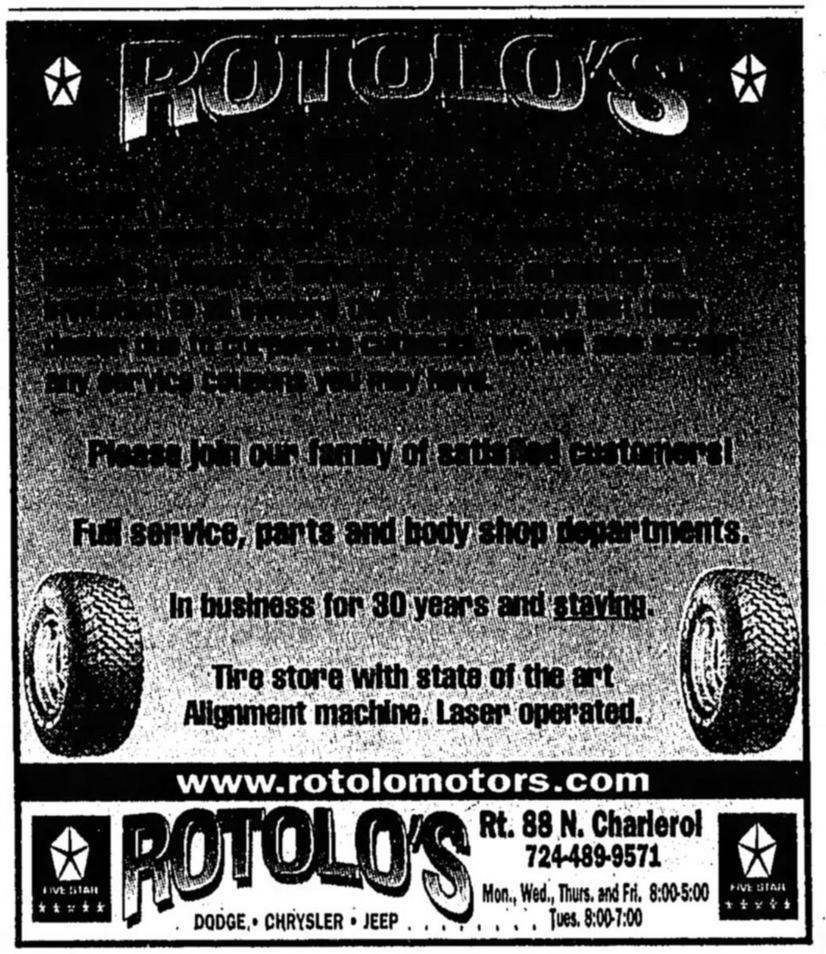
This helps ensure easier start-ups on cold weather days. Some motor oils, such as Royal Purple, are actually formulated with molecules that chemically bond with engine components for continuous engine protection.

Additionally, Royal Purple motor oil has been shown to improve fuel economy, reduce emissions and increase horsepower and torque.



ARA photo

Special care is required to keep your vehicle running properly through winter's cold temperatures.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Car care advice for consumers facing tough times

(ARA) — The average car and light truck on American roads has reached a record age of 9.4 years, according to a recent survey by R.L. Polk & Co. With new car sales down, consumers across the country are looking to get the most out of their existing cars and to save money whenever possible.

However, spending a little more today on the right maintenance routine with quality products and trusted service technicians can help save money over the long run. Alan Taylor, host of the nationally syndicated show Car & Driver Radio, offers the following simple checklist of tips motorists should perform to help keep their vehicles running longer, safer and more cost-effectively:

Motor oil really does matter

Beyond regular, specified oil changes, automobile manufacturers recommend the use of high-quality motor oils that meet the latest American Petroleum Institute (API) specifications in their particular grade. Consumers should ask for quality motor oils by name because they are formulated to meet the demands of today's engines. Using a quality motor oil in the right grade can help maximize fuel economy, and help save money by preventing costly engine damage. A new, informative Web site — www.MotorOilMatters.org — answers many motor oil questions and dispels many common myths.

Regular preventive maintenance pays off

Most vehicle manufacturers have two classifications for driving conditions, "normal" and "severe," which they use to recommend how often drivers should have services such as oil changes performed on their vehicle. A driving habits survey conducted for Jiffy Lube found that more than 92 percent of motorists drive in what vehicle manufacturers consider "severe" conditions.

Regardless of the driving conditions, it's important that people follow their vehicle manufacturer's maintenance recommendations. Keeping a vehicle on its proper preventive maintenance schedule will help keep it running smoothly.

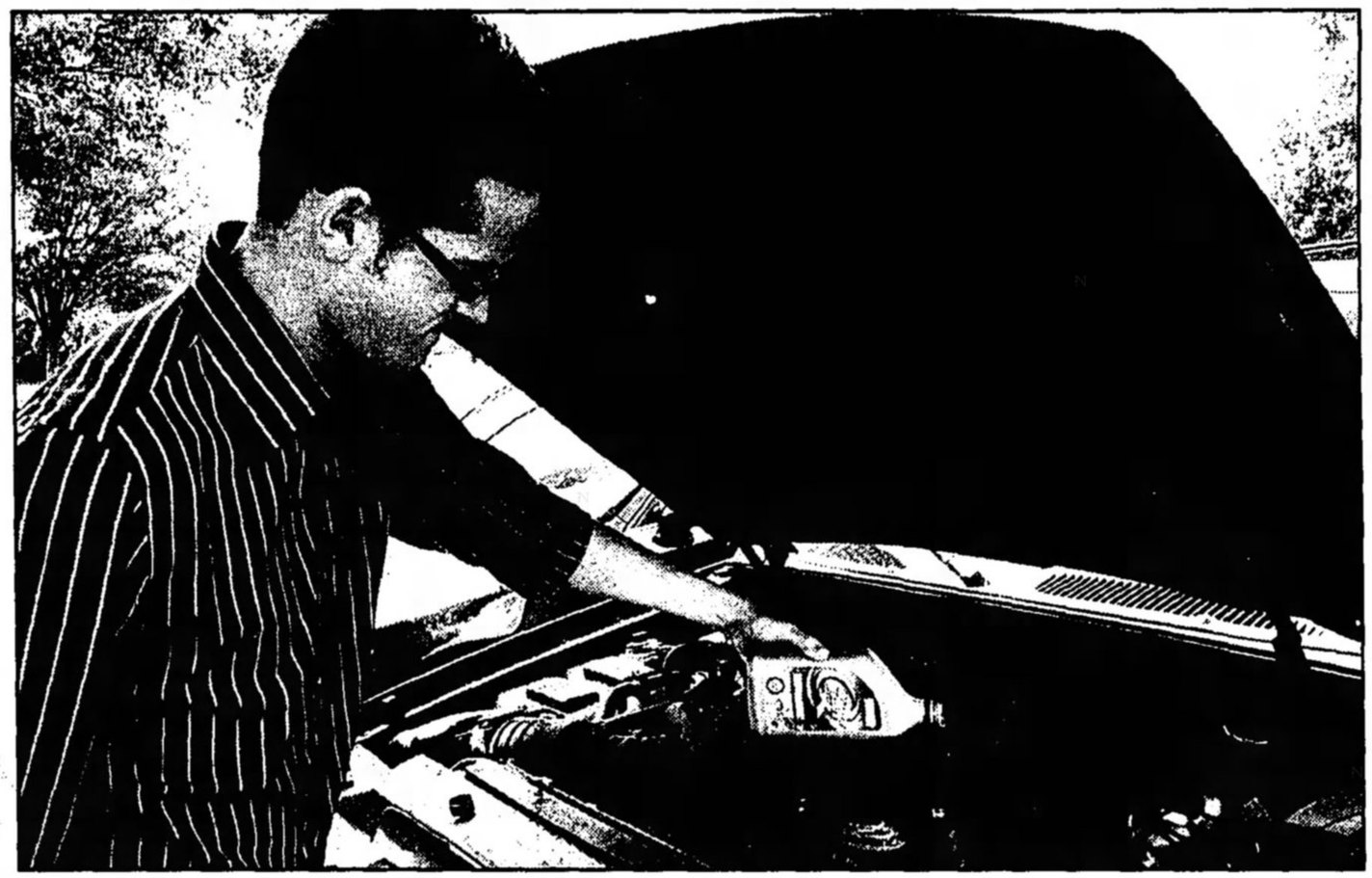
Driving style can make a big difference

Aggressive driving wastes gas and can reduce gas mileage by 33 percent on the highway and 5 percent in the city, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Avoid quick or "jackrabbit" starts and stops, and observe the posted speed limits as gas mileage decreases rapidly above 60 mph.

Motorists should plan their route in advance and combine as many errands as possible to minimize time on the road. Especially on longer trips, drivers should take advantage of the cruise control feature if they have it – an Edmunds.com study revealed that using cruise control at highway speeds offered an average fuel economy savings of 7percent.

Use a high-quality gasoline

All gasolines are not the same, and no matter what grade of fuel a vehicle requires, it's important to use a high-quality gasoline. Industry research confirms that a clean engine can result in better fuel efficiency, reduced emissions and overall optimal engine performance. Fortunately, keeping the engine clean of performance-robbing "gunk" helps it perform better and is as easy as choosing the right gasoline. For example, Shell Nitrogen Enriched Gasolines contain a patented cleaning system that seeks and destroys engine gunk left behind by lower-quality gasoline.



ARA photo

Challenging economic times make vehicle maintenance more important than ever.

Don't lose your grip

Tires are a car's only connection to the road, so making sure they are in good shape and properly inflated is essential for automotive safety, optimum driving performance and potential cost savings, including better fuel mileage. Tires should be inflated to the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations printed on the vehicle door placard or in the owner's manual. Properly inflated tires can improve gas mileage by around 3.3 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy

Watch the weight

If it's not needed, don't take it. Check the vehicle on a regular basis and remove all unnecessary items. Every additional 100 pounds in the trunk could reduce the typical car's fuel economy by up to 2 percent, the Department of Energy reports.

Let the car breathe free

Check that the air filter isn't clogged. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve a car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent. And it won't just save money; it will also help protect the engine by keeping harmful impurities out.

Regular tune ups pay off over the long term

Before taking that long trip, motorists should visit a trusted professional and make sure their car is properly tuned. Depending on the kind of repair and how well it is performed, regular vehicle maintenance can improve gas mileage by an average of 4 percent, according to the Department of Energy.

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Repairing a hybrid doesn't have to be expensive

ARA photo

A Web site that tracks the cost of auto repairs indicates that fixing a hybrid doesn't have to be more expensive.

(ARA) — The government backed "Cash for Clunkers" rebate program helped dealers sell off 2009 models, and a wave of new vehicles is coming in anticipation of the federal mandate that cars average 35.5 mpg by 2016. If you haven't updated your vehicle in years, it will be more important than ever to analyze your needs and wants before you buy.

The choice is much more complicated than simply picking a small, mid-size, or large vehicle. If you're considering a hybrid, you might be happy to hear the reality behind some common myths about the dependability of dual-powered vehicles.

Fleets of Toyota Prius and Ford Escape hybrid taxis in Vancouver, San Francisco, and New York City have reliably been in service for more than 200,000 miles. The first generation Toyota and Honda hybrids were introduced more than a decade ago and there are definitely thousands of satisfied hybrid owners.

Another misconception of gas-electric hybrid vehicles is that they are expensive to maintain. With the exception of the hybrid's battery system, there is some crossover in parts between hybrids and gas-powered vehicles.

The batteries in a hybrid or electric vehicle don't get better with age. No one expects the batteries in a 15-year-old electric razor to still hold a charge, and the same will probably be true for a 15-year-old hybrid vehicle.

Hybrid batteries are typically covered by at least an eight-year warranty. The replacement cost for new nickel-metal hydride Prius batteries keeps dropping, but a new battery pack still costs around $2,000.

A check of the RockAuto.com online auto parts catalog shows hybrids often share fuel injectors, oxygen sensors, water pumps, brake pads, shock absorbers, air conditioners and other commonly replaced parts with conventional, gasoline-powered models. Hybrids do have unique and expensive parts like the Prius' $3,700 power inverter, but RockAuto.com shows routine repairs and maintenance for a hybrid do not always have to cost more.

The RockAuto.com Repair Index automatically pulls prices from the company's vast auto parts catalog based on year, make, model and type of part. It's a quick, easy way to compare parts costs for different models and the results can be surprising.

While some cars may be appealing because they are better for the environment or great on gas savings, for the average driver some fully electric cars may not be worth the cost to purchase or maintain.

A new lithium ion battery pack for the fully-electric Tesla Roadster — with a sticker price of $101,500 — costs around $36,000. New 100 percent electric vehicles by Chevrolet, Chrysler, Nissan and Mini will have lithium battery packs that cost more than $10,000. A battery pack's limited shelf life means a fully electric or even a gas-electric hybrid might not be the best choice for a retiree planning to drive 3,000 miles a year for 20 years and then pass the vehicle down to a favorite grandchild.

For more information on the availability of parts without the expense of getting repairs done only at the dealership, go to www.rockauto.com.

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Buying basics for tire shoppers

(ARA) – It's one of the most important vehicle-related purchases you can make, yet a whopping 62 percent of women and nearly half of all men think it's difficult, according to a recent survey. What is this process that so many American car owners consider a hassle? Buying new tires.

"Most people barely have time to do what they need to do every day, let alone find extra time to shop for tires, but driving on worn-out tires is a safety hazard and replacing them should be a priority," says Lauren Fix, the "Car Coach," a nationally recognized automotive expert who travels the country talking to people about their cars.

Though close to 85 percent of American women are responsible for the maintenance of their vehicles, many don't know when it's time to buy new tires or what they need to know to buy the right ones for their cars, the national survey by TireBuyer.com revealed. The survey also showed that 21 percent of men admit they don't know as much as they think they should about buying tires.

For all those American motorists who aren't sure when their vehicle needs new tires and how to go about purchasing them when it does, Fix offers a few simple tips:

A penny really can save

"One penny can spare you a dangerous blowout," Fix says. It's a tried and true test of tire tread – stand a penny on its edge in a tread groove. Make sure Abe's head is pointing down, into the tire tread. If you can see the top of his hair or any of the penny background above his head, it's time to replace your tires. If you can't see the hair on top of his head, your tire treads should still be OK to drive on. And remember, tires don't wear evenly so repeat the test on several spots on the tire.

Keep the manufacturer's advice in mind

Most manufacturers will give you an estimated amount of miles their tires will be safe for. Be sure you know what their recommendation is for your tires and vehicle, and keep a close eye on tire tread depth as you approach that mileage limit. If you're buying a used vehicle, be sure to have your mechanic check the tire treads and find out from the current owner when he or she last replaced the tires.

Well-cared-for tires are safer tires

The quality and condition of your vehicle's tires directly affect your safety on the road. Visually inspect tires at least once a month, looking for excessive or uneven tread wear, cracks or bulges on the sidewalls or tread, tread separation, and signs of punctures, or nails, screws, glass or stones imbedded in the treads.

Check for proper inflation at least once a month. Under-inflation is the leading cause of tire failure, and can impact how your car handles and its fuel efficiency. Refer to your vehicle's owner's manual or the sticker on the inside of your car's door jamb for proper tire pressure.

ARA photo

Learn the basics of tire buying before your next purchase.

Exceeding passenger and cargo load ranges is the second leading cause of tire failure. Check the code on your tire's sidewall and your owner's manual for the maximum load range for your vehicle and don't exceed that range.

Finally, replacing all four tires at the same time ensures maximum safety, performance and efficiency.

What to do when it's time to buy

Go online. The TireBuyer.com survey showed that both men and women like the idea of buying tires online, citing the convenience, ease of purchase and the opportunity to see prices before buying in a pressure-free environment. Online purchasing is also appealing, survey respondents said, because they can instantly view the selection that would fit their car. They also liked the ability to have the tires shipped free from TireBuyer.com to the certified dealer of their choice.

The easy-to-navigate site allows buyers to browse from an inventory of more than 3 million tires and wheels, narrow their search to products that fit their car, and use 3-D imaging to see how any tire or wheel combination will look on their vehicle. Once they choose a tire, they can purchase online and pay for the tires and installation – done by the certified local tire dealer of their choice.

"Driving around on worn-out tires isn't safe," says Fix. "Tires are the only point of contact cars have with the road. If you want to keep your car longer than usual because of the economy, then the best investment you can make is regular maintenance and buying new tires when you need them."

TireBuyer.com commissioned a survey of 1,000 adults, older than 25, and found that when it comes to buying tires:

- 76 percent of women and 74 percent of men want the best tires they can afford.
- 21 percent of women and 17 percent of men are deferring maintenance on their cars and tires due to the economy.
- Buying tires isn't easy, according to 62 percent of women and 49 percent of men.
- Men and women nearly equally feel they don't know as much as they should about buying tires (21 percent and 26 percent, respectively).
- A flat or a blowout inspires 57 percent of women and 52 percent of men to buy new tires.
- Being able to see prices online before they buy appeals to 38 percent of women and 43 percent of men.

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Six slippery sales strategies

(ARA) — Even with the success of the "Cash for Clunkers" program, the auto industry is limping through the recession and most car dealers are still in need of increased sales. It may be a buyer's market, but that's no reason to let your guard down in the showroom. Experienced salespeople have one goal in mind: to put you in a new car today. And it's their job to get as much profit out of every sale as possible.

While most car salespeople are honest and forthright, says Howard Krueger, a former car salesman, others may be looking to take you for a ride. So before you set foot on the lot, be aware of sales tactics that could bait you into paying hundreds or thousands more than you should. Krueger, now an Internet auto sales manager for USAA, offers a few of the more common sales strategies:

ARA photo

Familiarize yourself with the tricks used by car salesmen before you step on the lot.

The four square

A salesman puts four numbers in front of you: the new vehicle price, your trade-in value, your down payment, and the monthly payment. He's looking for your "hot button." When you focus on one of the numbers (say you demand more for your trade-in) he knows he can hook you by meeting your terms on that part of the deal. Problem is, the other three numbers are already inflated to favor the dealer.

The waiting game

"Let me go talk to my manager and see what I can do," says the salesman. It's a classic technique. After what seems like ages, the salesman returns, ostensibly exhausted from negotiating on your behalf. "My boss is willing to come down – this is the best deal we've given anyone on this car." Don't bite. The dealer's betting that the longer you sit, the more anxious you'll be to reach an agreement.

The turnover house

Sometimes the sales manager comes to talk to you himself. Now that you're talking to the boss, you'll know you're getting the best possible deal. The truth is, the "boss" is a professional closer, brought in to win you over when the first string can't. It's not uncommon to go through three layers of sales people before you reach the dealer's true best offer.

The sympathy play

"Hey, I need to make a little money on this deal, too," he says, citing the struggling economy or, worse, four kids to feed. It's only fair for the dealer to make a reasonable profit, but don't be guilted into paying too much. Rest assured the dealer won't knowingly lose money just to earn your business.

The now-or-never

"This deal is only good for today," or, "there's another buyer interested in this car" – whatever the salesman's story, some dealers rely on fear tactics to rush you into a sale. You know better.

The free extras

To sweeten the pot, your salesperson might throw in pinstriping, rust-proofing, or fabric protection at no extra cost. But unbiased experts agree that these add-ons aren't worth much, despite what the dealer usually charges for them. Your best bet is to ignore them.

Being street-smart about sly sales techniques is one thing; sticking to your guns and actually getting a good deal is another. So how can you tilt the odds back in your favor? The answer is simple: research.

The Internet has helped level the playing field for consumers. Thanks to sites like Edmunds.com and member-based resources such as USAA's Car-Buying Service, you can enter the dealership armed with more information than the salesman himself.

Not only can you research your preferred vehicle and every available bell and whistle, you can find out the dealer's invoice (also known as dealer's cost) and uncover special incentives and rebates.

It's also smart to know the fair value of your trade-in (visit Kelly Blue Book at kbb.com), get a quote for insurance on the new vehicle, and get pre-approved for auto financing. Lining up these numbers in advance simplifies your negotiation in the sales office. Still, be sure to set aside plenty of time for your visit to the dealership, and avoid distractions while you focus on getting the best deal.

An even simpler approach to consider is having the price negotiated for you before you step foot on the car lot. Taking advantage of car-buying programs that offer these special member prices and services can save you time, money and the hassles of negotiations.

With solid knowledge about what you want and how much it should cost, you'll know how to spot a good deal. And all the slick salesmen in the world won't be able to change your mind.

Car lot lingo

Deciphering the dialect of auto dealers can help you negotiate a lower price.

MSRP: Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price including destination fees. You can usually pay less. Does not include tax, title, license, dealer processing or any other miscellaneous fees.

Invoice: Often referred to as dealer cost, before rebates and incentives. Includes destination charge, optional equipment costs, dealer holdback and advertising costs.

Customer rebate: A manufacturer incentive usually in the form of cash or lower interest rates.

Manufacturer-to-dealer incentive: Extra money the auto-maker pays the dealer for selling certain cars. May be used to increase advertising, lower the prices, and/or increase dealer's profitability.

Dealer holdback: A bonus amount (usually 2 to 3 percent of MSRP) the manufacturer pays to the dealer for meeting sales and customer service goals, regardless of the actual sale price of the vehicles.

Carryover allowance: Another manufacturer-to-dealer incentive to clear out prior year models.

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Are 3,000-mile oil changes really necessary?

(ARA) — For years, drivers have been hearing about changing their motor oil every 3,000 miles, but times have changed, and the "3,000-mile mantra"may or may not apply to you and your car.

The 3,000-mile oil change is a conservative approach to maintaining your vehicle that, according to General Motors, dates back to 1968. It's also an oil change interval that continues to be encouraged by the automotive oil change industry.

Automobile manufacturers cite modern oil and engine technology as the reason why oil change intervals can be extended. Numerous factors come in to play in determining the oil change interval you should follow including: The car you drive and the way you drive it, oil and filter selection and whether your vehicle has an oil life monitoring system.

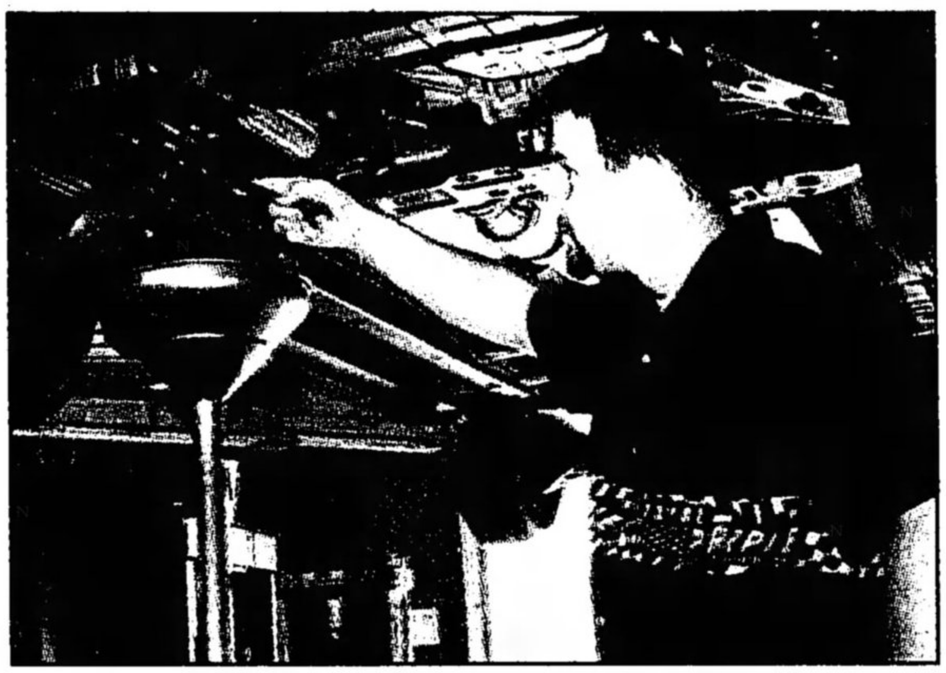
Every automobile manufacturer establishes recommended oil change intervals for each model they manufacture. Oil change intervals are now between 5,000 and 7,500 miles for many new cars.

You should follow your car manufacturer's recommendations on oil change intervals while the car is under warranty. If your car is no longer under warranty, you can extend your oil change intervals by upgrading to synthetic motor oil. This will reduce the number of oil changes saving you time and money, and reducing the amount of oil purchased and disposed.

There are a number of quality synthetic motor oils available to choose from. Most lubricant manufacturers will give a recommended number of miles you can drive between oil changes under normal conditions. The number of miles you can allow between oil changes will depend on the way you drive and the oxidation stability (useful oil life) of the motor oil.

Oxidation stability can be measured by international standards board ASTM's rigorous Thin Film Oxidation Uptake Test (TFOUT). The test is so severe that it lasts 1,300 minutes. Conventional motor oils typically last less than 300 minutes. Synthetic motor oils typically last less than 500 minutes.

If you elect to upgrade your motor oil, you should also upgrade your oil filter. Low quality filters are often made with the 3,000 mile interval in mind and may go into 'bypass' mode shortly thereafter.



Several factors can determine how often you need to change the oil in your vehicle.

ARA photo

A fairly new technology impacting oil change intervals is the 'oil life monitor.' Many people are unaware that oil life monitor systems are simply computer software algorithms that determine when to change oil based on engine operating conditions. An oil life monitor looks at mileage, speed and idling time to calculate when you should change the oil. A better name for the oil life monitor might be 'oil life predictor.'

There is no actual oil condition sensor or a chemical analysis of the oil.

In fact, you could drain the oil and replace it with any fluid and the oil change monitor would have no way of knowing it. Additionally, the oil life monitor does not monitor how well your oil filter is filtering the oil in your system. Contaminated oil is just as, if not more harmful than oxidized motor oil.

The bottom line is that an oil life monitor is a useful tool that should be used in concert with common sense and good judgment.

Whether or not you have an oil change monitor, if your car is still under warranty, stick with the car manufacturer's recommended oil change intervals. If your car is no longer under warranty, you can go beyond the typical 3,000 mile oil change or beyond the oil change monitor's recommendations by upgrading to a high performance synthetic motor oil and high performance oil filter.

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Green your car from top to bottom

(ARA) — "Green" is in, and everyone's jumping on the environmental bandwagon. But if you don't drive a hybrid, how can you make your car more environmentally friendly? Try looking at where the rubber meets the road: your tires.

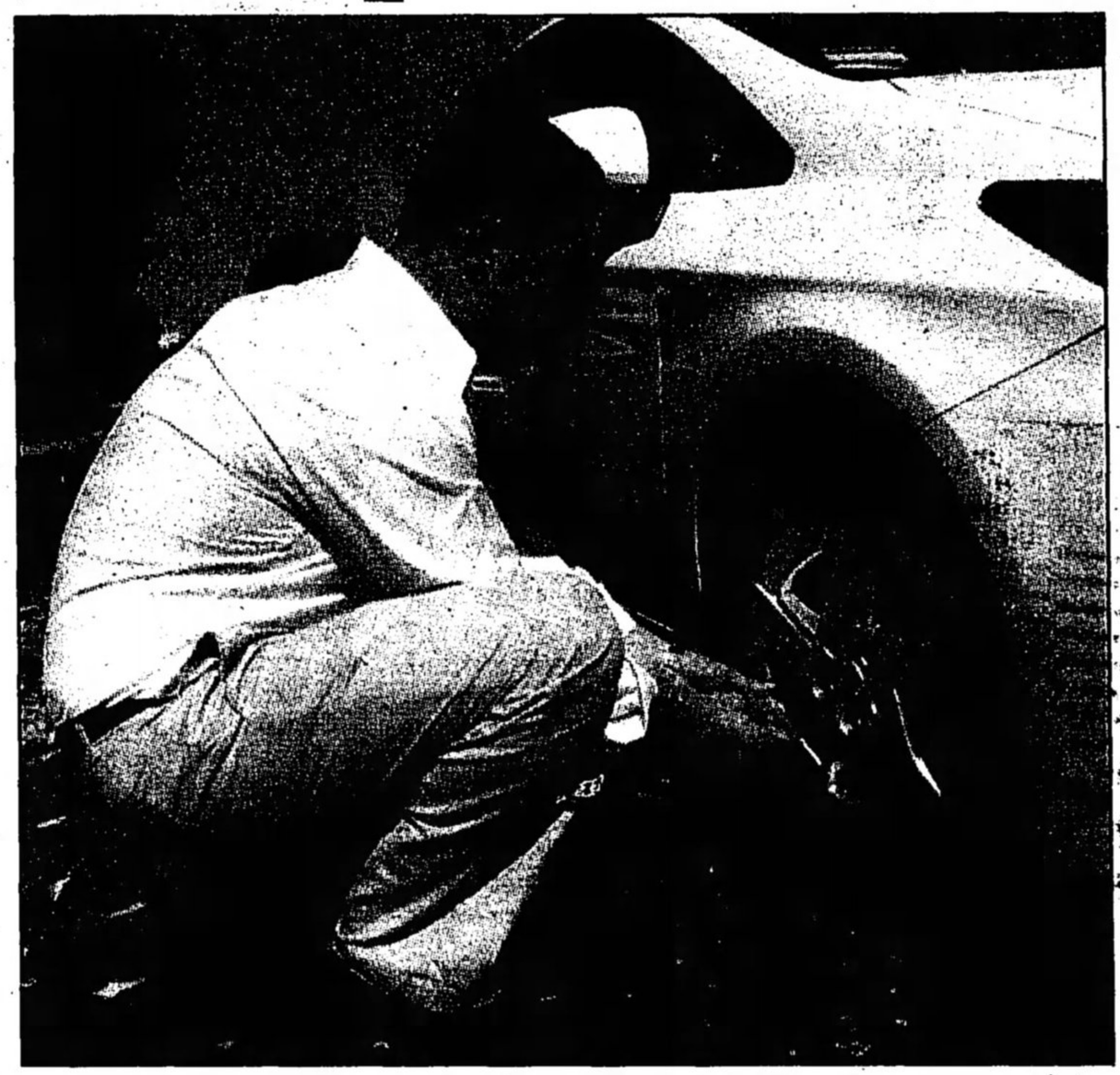
Admittedly, tires aren't the sexiest things, but recent technological advances have made them easier on the planet.

The dB Super E-spec tires from Yokohama Tire Corporation are made with orange oil, which replaces much of the normally-used petroleum. This new tire represents one of the biggest breakthroughs in tire making since the more than century-old discovery of vulcanized rubber. It certainly gives new meaning to the common auto phrase, "peel out."

"We're trying to help save the planet, one orange oil tire at time," says Yokohama's Mark Chung. "Essentially, the Super E-spec blends renewable natural rubber with the orange oil extracted from peels at juicing plants. This combo makes the tire 80 percent petroleum free, which is great for the environment.

"Folks can also save cash at the gas pump because the orange oil tires are lighter and more fuel efficient. Every gallon of gas saved by the Super E-spec means 20 fewer pounds of CO2 released into the atmosphere," says Chung.

Another way fuel efficiency is achieved is through proper tire inflation. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that approximately 37 million cars and 29 million trucks have underinflated tires. A motorist, according to AAA, who drives an average of 12,000 miles annually on tires that are underinflated by five to eight psi (pounds per square inch) is wasting up to 50 gallons of gasoline, equating to $141.50 (at $2.83 a gallon) a year. That's more than half the cost of a week's worth of groceries ($226) for a family of four, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If there are two drivers in the family, that total comes to $283, well over a week's worth of food for the family.



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To make your car more environmentally friendly, start by checking the tires.

Chung offers additional earth-friendly tips:

- Once a month, check tire inflation when the tires are cold (at least three to four hours after the vehicle has been driven) check tire pressure with a reliable tire gauge. Be sure that the valve stems have a plastic or metal cap to keep dirt out and seal against leakage.
- Tires should be rotated at least every 6,000 to 8,000 miles and the alignment should be checked once a year. Misaligned tires can cause the car to scrub, which lowers mileage and causes unnecessary tire wear.
- An overinflated tire changes and increases wear on the center of the tread. A tire is designed to run with the vehicle's weight spread correctly in the road contact zone.
- Replace your air filter. A clogged air filter blocks the air needed to burn fuel efficiently which wastes gas.
- Keep your car tuned up according to the manufacturer's recommended schedule and you'll keep all systems in good working order, which can optimize your mileage.
- Slow down. For every five miles per hour you go above 60 mph, you're lowering your gas mileage and, ultimately, paying even more for each gallon of gas.

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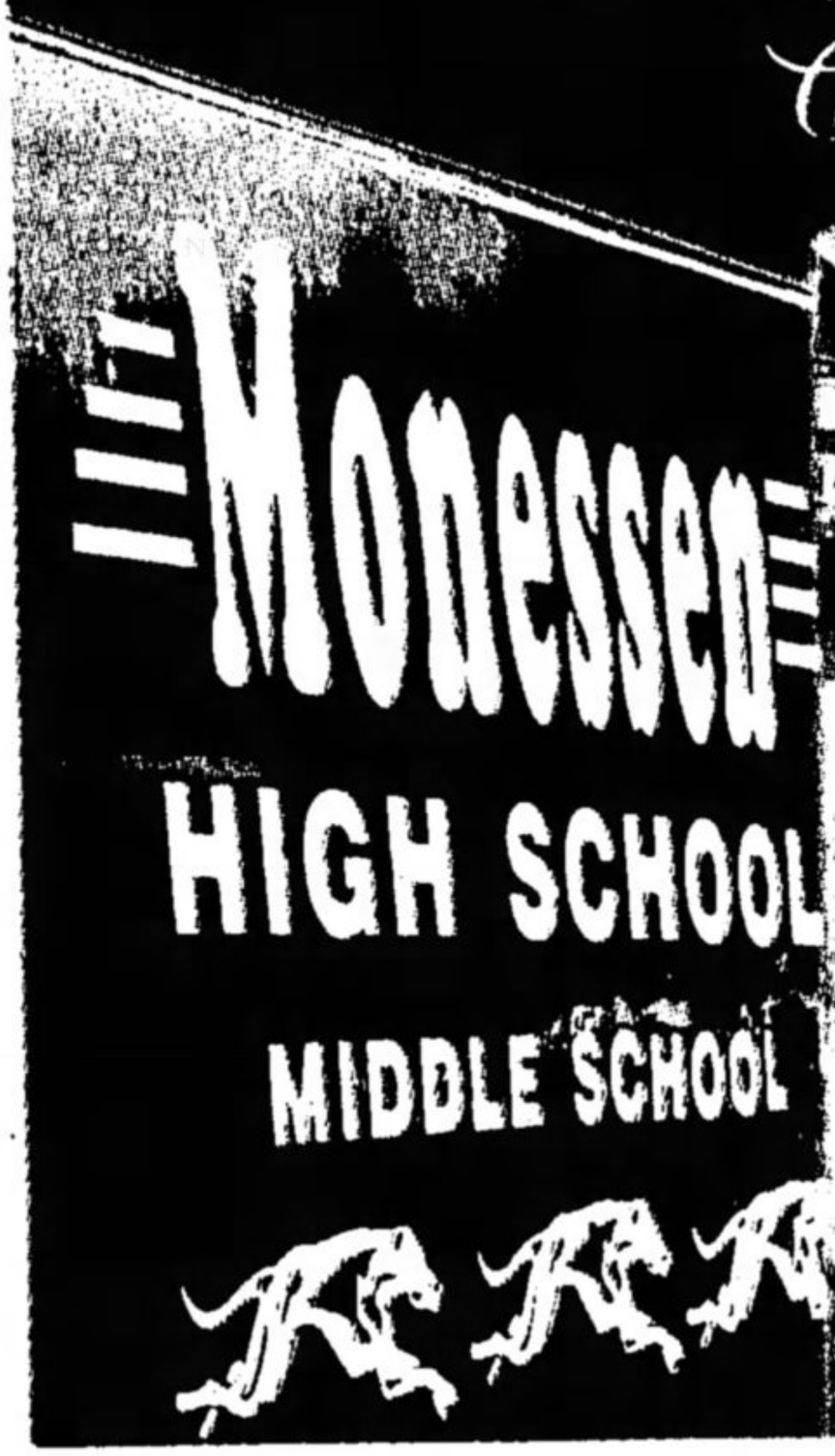
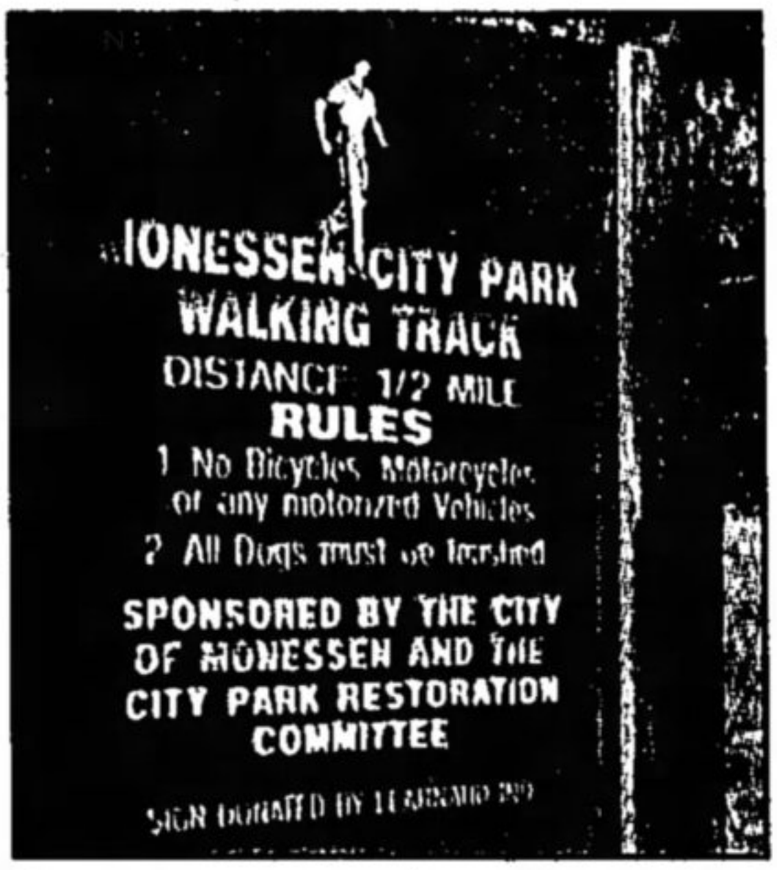


Chamber improves life in Monessen

The Greater Monessen Chamber of Commerce has been living up to our mission statement of "making Monessen a better place to live, work and conduct business."

This year the Chamber, along with both fire departments, sponsored Pride in Monessen Days. Many groups participated in making physical improvements to our city. Many businesses have made improvements to their location in conjunction with this program.

The Chamber is working with Mayor Petaccia on a new facade program. This will produce the biggest change in the appearance of Monessen in decades. Four new facades have already been approved and many others are being planned.



Improvements to City Park are among the projects of the Monessen Chamber.

Improvements continue in City Park under the leadership of the Parks Committee. Monessen City Park is the most beautiful park in the Valley. The Monessen Boat Launch opened this year. This great facility is the best river access in the Mid-Mon-Valley.

Cultural Heritage Festival continues to attract more churches and ethnic organizations. Next year the festival will be held the second weekend in September. We bring the best ethnic entertainment and food to the Valley.

The Monessen Library continues to add new programs. Their excellent staff can help you with any research project. Monessen retailers continue to offer many unique items. We are also home to a number of excellent restaurants.

Remember; save gas, save time shop locally in Monessen. Hometown business is what makes a city unique.

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Monessen's police force includes 11 full-time officers, six part-time officers and one K-9 officer.

Police protect and serve

The Monessen Police Department has 11 full-time officers and six part-time officers, including a chief, detective lieutenant and four lieutenants.

Officer Brian Vitale serves as the Handler for K-9 Officer Ivo, who is a 2-year-old Dutch Shepherd. Mark Gibson is currently the police chief.

Each officer handles an array of responsibilities ranging from routine traffic citations to major crime investigations.

The department has taken a tough stance against drugs within the city and has made numerous drug arrests recently with the assistance of the Attorney General's Office.

The police department has successfully coordinated efforts with the state Attorney General's Office to keep drugs out of the city.

The department is equipped with two-way radios that make communication swift among the city's officers and with neighboring police officers. City officers use five vehicles to regularly patrol 45 miles of streets and are constantly on call to respond to emergencies.

The city's officers are required to live in Monessen and complete mandatory annual training. Officers also attend specialized training courses as they become available.

All calls to the police department must go through 911.

The Monessen Police Department was established as a small force in the late 1800s. It was formed under the leadership of Chief D.W.G. Cooper. The first jail was a shed at the rear of the former borough building on Fourth Street.

The police department operates from the ground floor of the city's municipal building on Third Street.

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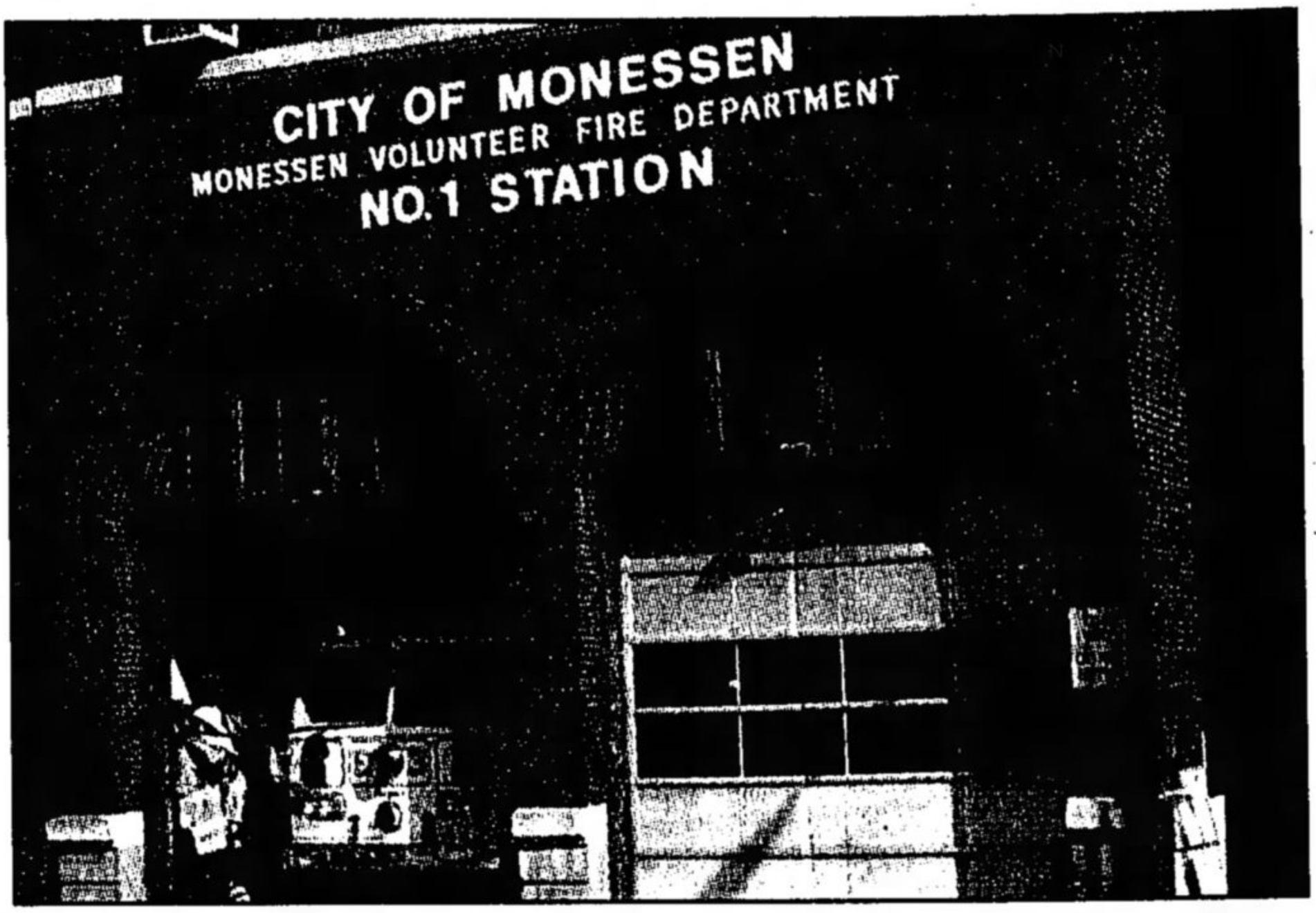

Monessen's Volunteer Fire Department No. 1 Station is located in the municipal building on Third Street.

Volunteer firefighters protect Monessen

The City of Monessen Bureau of Fire consists of two volunteer fire departments — one located in the Municipal building on Third Street, and the other at the corner of Grand Boulevard and Marion Avenue.

Combined, the two departments have 85 active volunteers.

Volunteer Fire Department and Relief Association No. 1, uses four pieces of first line apparatus to respond to incidents, which includes a 2009 2000 GPM Engine, a 1989 100 foot tiller aerial truck, a 1989 2000 GPM Engine, and a 1985 Rescue truck, all of which were manufactured by Seagrave, the same company that made the city's first fire truck.

Monessen Volunteer Fire Department Hose House No. 2 utilizes a 2005 1500 GMP Rescue/Engine, a 1992 55-foot Telesquirt/Engine and a 2000 Special Service vehicle which is AED equipped, and assists Mon Valley Emergency Medical Services on medical calls.

The fire departments train and respond together to help keep residents safe, and work seamlessly with the Monessen Police Department, Mon Valley EMS, Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety and surrounding fire departments. The departments also provide a Fire Prevention Program to all children attending preschool through the 12th grade in Monessen annually.

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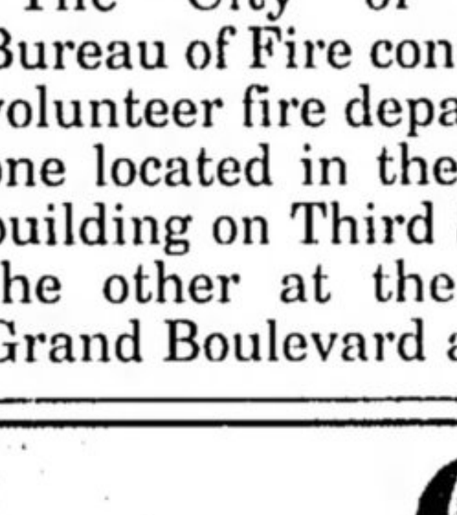

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Jehmal Jordan, 5, a member of Alice Pastella's kindergarten class at Monessen Elementary Center, high fives firefighter Tim Henry during a class visit to the Hilltop Volunteer Fire Department as part of Fire Prevention Week in October.

Monessen's two fire departments train and respond to calls together.

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Easy access benefits city

Monessen is served by easy access to Interstate 70, the Pennsylvania Turnpike and several major expressways to the north, south, east and west.

A local bus line, the Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority, provides full area service and free transportation for senior citizens of Monessen. The service can be contacted at (724) 489-0880.

Another transit service offers hourly bus service to Pittsburgh and many other cities and towns along its route. A local taxi service, Tri-County Access, is also available to serve residents in the Tri-county area. Special rates are available for senior citizens.

For more information, call (724) 379-6802.

Air traffic needs are met by the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport, which is only about an hour away by automobile, and by the Westmoreland County Airport in Rostraver Township, adjacent to the city limits, which provides aircraft rental, air ambulance and facilities for both fixed and rotary winged aircraft.

Contact the Westmoreland County Airport at (724) 379-6980.

The business-oriented county airport in Latrobe is also less than an hour away from the city.

The major highway artery through the center of the city is Pennsylvania Route 906, which joins Interstate 70 just beyond the city limits and connects with the turnpike at nearby New Stanton. All are adjacent to the new Mon/Fayette Expressway, which currently stretches along the outskirts of the Mon Valley and links California to Route 51 at Large. The expressway is expected to expand directly to Pittsburgh.

The closest interchange to Monessen is located at Coyle Curtin Road in Fallowfield Township.

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Mon Valley EMS works for others

Mon Valley EMS transported more than 15,000 people last year.

"You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others" — Anonymous..

Doing things for others is what Mon Valley Emergency Medical Services does best and this is the motto the organization stands on everyday.

Concerned Monessen residents created Monessen Ambulance Service in 1969. Since that time the service has changed its name to Mon Valley Emergency Medical Services, but still holds to the same principals of service on which it was founded.

Mon Valley Emergency Medical Services provides life saving services to 13 Mon Valley communities. For Forty years , Mon Valley EMS has provided high quality emergency medical care to approximately 100,000 patients With all their communities support we can serve for another 40 years, which has been 14, 600 sometime endless days, 350,400 tireless hours and when seconds count, as they do on every call, 21,024,000 seconds.

A staff of more than 20 full-time and 20 part-time employees works around the clock to provide prompt and professional emergency and non-emergency services.

Mon Valley EMS is also a founding member of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Ambulance Strike Team, which can be deployed anywhere in Pennsylvania or the entire nation in times of emergency.

The service's headquarters is located at 1001 Donner Ave, in the Westgate section of Monessen. The 11,500 square foot facility houses ambulances and specialized rescue vehicles, in house billing and office personnel. A Classroom is also provided for public education.

There are also two other stations located on Meldon Avenue in Donora and First street in Charleroi. With the three stations Mon Valley EMS has transported over 15,000 people in this year alone.

The Specialty Coach Service is available to transport clients when an ambulance is not needed and for pre-scheduled doctor's appointments.

Valley Health and Safety, a division of Mon Valley EMS, teaches classes to both businesses and the public. Child safety seat inspections are available and will be preformed by a certified child safety seat inspector, by appointment. A quarterly brochure is available.

The ambulance welcomes calls to speak to civic groups, schools, senior centers, business on there services and training.

Any questions can be directed to Mon Valley EMS at (724) 684-7612 (business), (724) 684-9536 (training). Visit Mon Valley EMS on the web at www.mvems.org and www.valleyhealthandsafety.org for more detailed information and a quick look at the services offered.

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Monessen's Middle/Senior High School complex serves students in grades 6 through 12.

Students come first at Monessen schools

The Monessen School District has upgraded facilities and curriculum on all school levels.

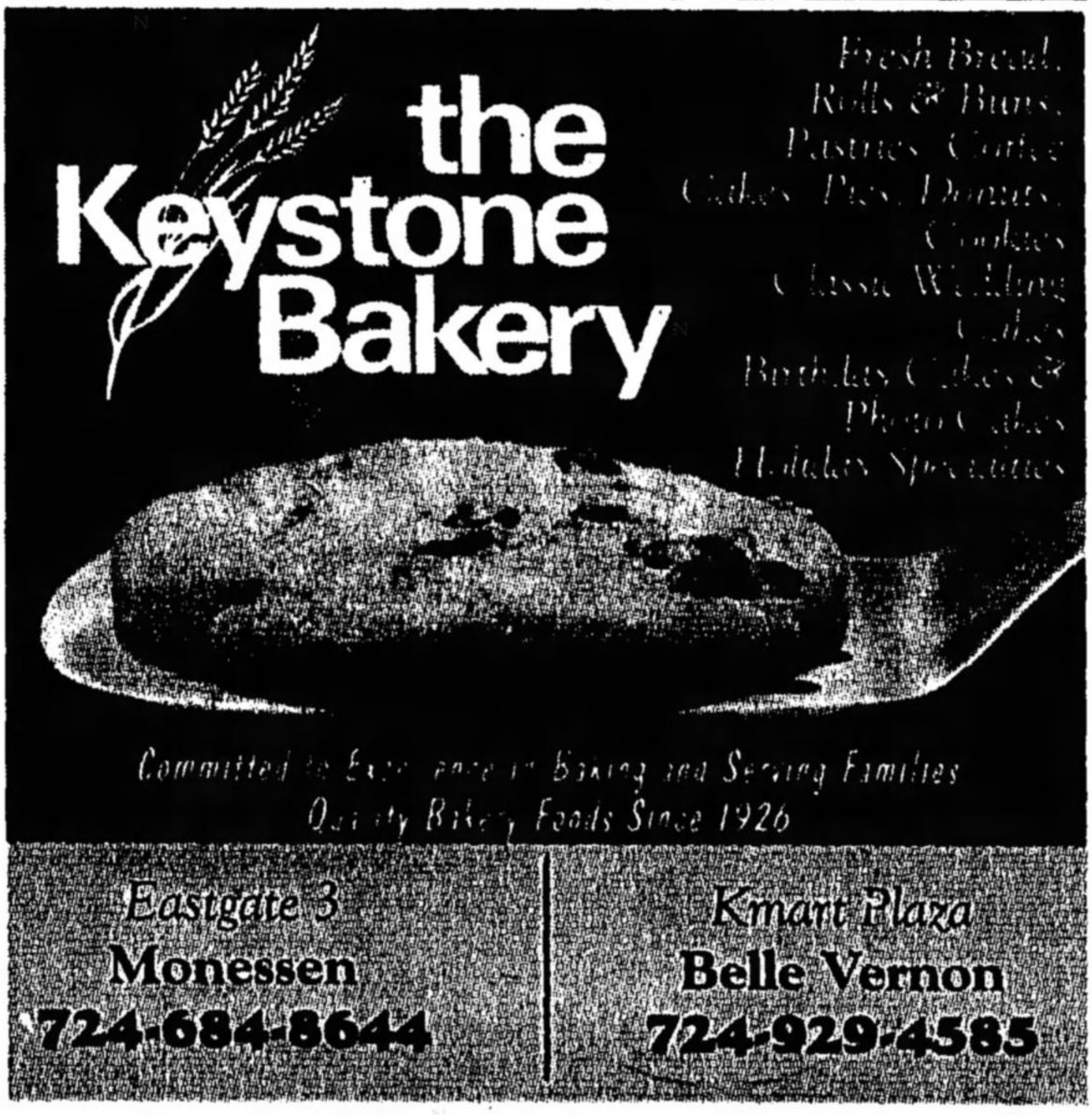
Located on 32 acres on State Road, the Middle/Senior High School houses students in grades 6 to 12. The school is located on 32 acres on State Road, an area formerly known as Elks Park.

A three-floor common area is located in the center of the 110,000-square-foot building, with the high school wing on the right and the middle school wing on the left. Each wing includes two floors of classrooms along with an administrative office and separate entrances.

An auditorium, cafeteria, gymnasium, large group instruction room, nurse's office and grand band/chorus suite are located on the first floor in the common room area.

The auditorium is located in the front of the building with the gym positioned in the back of the first level.

An open-spaced cafeteria is situated between the auditorium and the gym. Participants attending functions in the auditorium



or gym can utilize the cafeteria during intermissions.

The second floor of the common area houses the library, computer labs, a video production studio, remediation rooms and the balcony of the auditorium.

The lower floor of the common area is the location for the materials handling/ technology room (wood shop and drafting), the Art Room and the Home Economics suite. Also, the locker rooms for the gym are located there, along with an indoor fitness center/ adapted physical education room/weight room and storage areas.

The high school wing houses 17 classrooms including an individual laboratory and classroom for chemistry, biology and physics.

The Cisco Academy, a program at the high school, teaches students how to network computers.

An instructor internship program shows willing students the basics to being a teacher before college. Students in the program actually teach classes periodically as part of the course.

The middle school wing has 14 classrooms, including two science rooms. Included at the far end of the wing is a smaller gym without seating.

That area is used during the day by the middle school and is available in the evening for the community.

In addition to the middle school gym, the large group instruction room on the first floor of the common area could also be used by community groups for meetings and other functions.

A science fair for students from 6 to 8 grades is also offered each year.

An accelerated reader program is available at the middle school where students earn credit by reading novels.

The district's elementary school opened in 1982. It has 23 regular classrooms and specialty classrooms used for music, art, special education and title classes.

The school has a greenhouse, a science lab, and a library with 16,000 volumes and other resources. Three computer labs are located in the school and computers are in every classroom.

The school has a gym that doubles as an auditorium with a stage area.

A separate full cafeteria offers hot meals cooked on site.

The elementary school received a Reading First grant from the state Department of Education used to enhance reading instruction. The school is eligible to receive the same amount of money for five consecutive years.

The elementary school offers a full-day kindergarten and a revised schedule in all grades that features a 90-minute, uninterrupted block each morning for language arts.

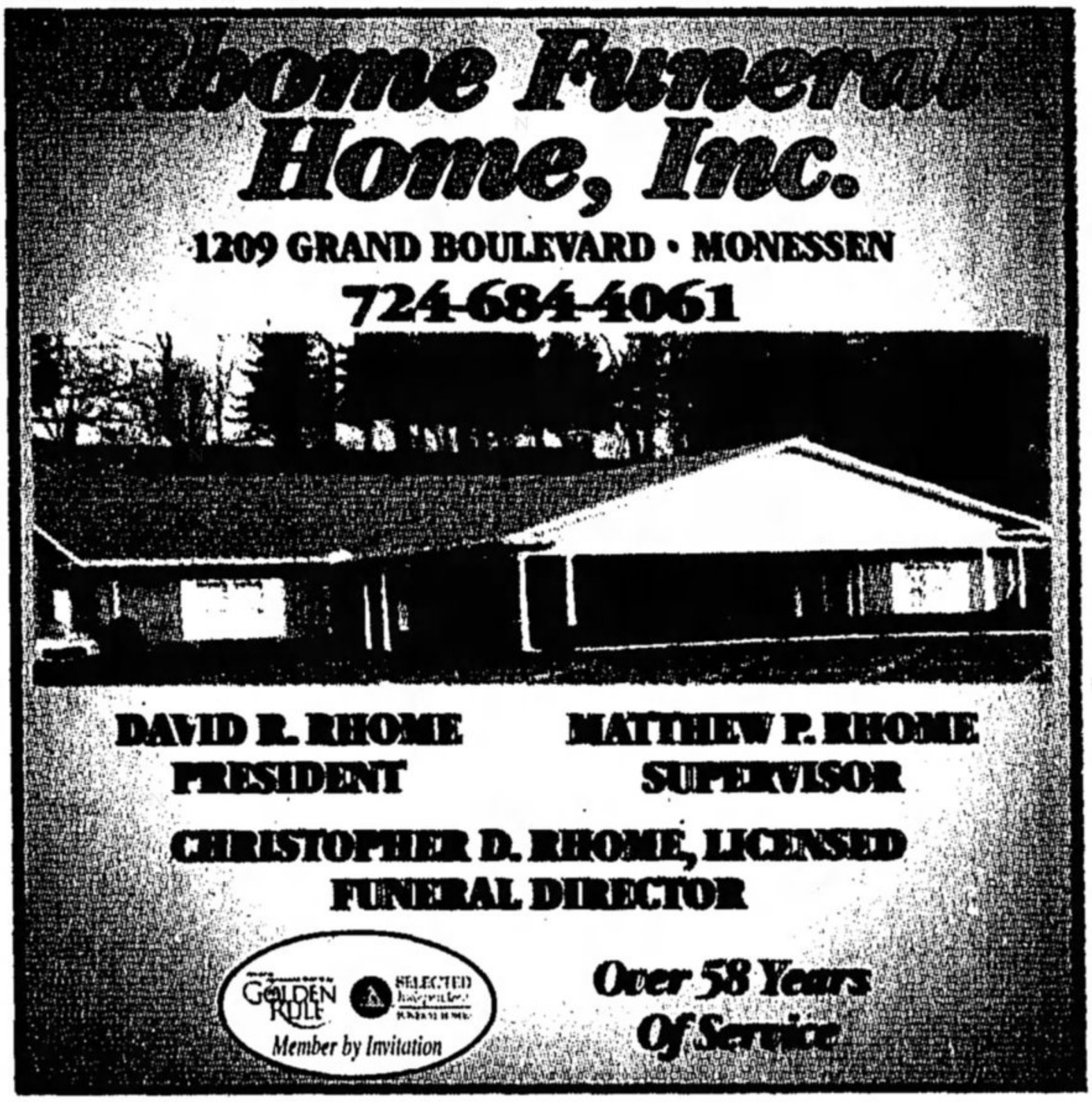
The middle and elementary schools make use of Science Wise — a hands-on approach to learning science where students progress through interactive experiments along with the regular curriculum.

The district also provides an activity bus, which runs through Monessen from 4 to 6 p.m.

The district offers Ed-Line at the high school/middle school, a data-sharing computer system where parents and students will be able to contact teachers through and pull assignments from the Internet and Classroll.com at the elementary.

Drop out prevention programs are also in place to keep enrollment high and all three schools have extended day programs available.

The district uses tutorial computer programs to enhance student performance on state assessment tests, and students in the class of 2007 will be required to show they have mastered math and reading before graduation



Performing at the 2009 Heritage Festival are, from left, Andre Pidkivka, Bob Bartko, Dana Leasure and Brian Bartko.

Crowds flock to Heritage Fest

The 2009 annual Monessen Cultural Heritage Festival was another great success, complete with ethnic food, dancing and entertainment.

This event originally started more than 40 years ago as a way to celebrate the rich, ethnic traditions of Monessen's residents and forefathers who settled here years ago.

Organizers have been working hard to return the festival the way it used to be, with "real" ethnic food and entertainment.

The food is prepared the traditional way by churches and ethnic organizations like in the old days.

Entertainment at the 2009 festival included music by legendary Mon Valley disc jockey Jim "J.D. the D.J." Dudas, a Monessen native who has been spinning oldies for over 25 years, the Gate of Heaven Church mime group and the Light of the World Gospel gospel choir.

Jerry Jumba and his orchestra also performed a mix of Slavic and Carpatho-Russian music.

There were many booths that featured ethnic food. Visitors were able to stroll the festival with a Greek gyro or a bowl of haluski and other treats from the many food vendors.

The 2009 festival also featured a car show. This year's sponsors were: First Federal Savings Bank, The Pumpkin Patch, Valley 1st Federal Union and *The Valley Independent.*

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Ethnic costumes and entertainment are a staple at the Cultural Heritage Festival.

A classic car show was part of Monessen's 2009 Cultural Heritage Festival.

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Youth reading programs are among the many services offered by the Monessen Public Library and District Center.

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Information and more available at Monessen's library

The Monessen Public Library and District Center is one of 29 district library centers in Pennsylvania. It provides an eclectic collection of materials for cardholders and other libraries in its service area of Fayette and Westmoreland Counties.

The library offers nearly 120,000 items, of which 21,000 are for children.

Among the materials for use are fiction, non-fiction and specialized reference, videos, films, DVDs, music CDs, and books on tape, disc, and in mp3 format.

Cardholders can access OverDrive, a source of downloadable audio books, either from the library, or from home if they have a computer and Internet access.

The library also provides in-house wi-fi, online computers, and a computer lab for training sessions on-site.

From the library, or from home cardholders and also access the Pennsylvania POWERLibrary Project, which provides admission to 43 online databases. With an active card, the gateway site, which includes links to government documents, can be accessed through the library's web site at www.monpldc.org.

Other databases available in the library include Ancestry,com, HeriateQuest and Newspaper Archive, where much genealogical information s available.

The library is part of the Westmoreland Library Network and provides access to catalogs from 20 libraries throughout Westmoreland County through Polaris. This can be accessed from home with an online computer. Patrons can easily search the catalog, place requests, renew books and pay fines online.

The library and district center is currently open 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

It is closed on Sundays and the following holidays: New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day.

The library is located at 326 Donner Ave., Monessen. For more information, call 724-684-4750 or visit the web site at www.monpldc.org

The library is part of the Westmoreland Library Network and provides access to catalogs from 20 libraries throughout Westmoreland County through

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Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer
Larry Vitale
(724) 684-9717

Community Development Office
(724) 684-9715

Mayor Anthony Petaccia's office
(724) 684-5011

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United Way works for the Valley

The United Way of the Mon Valley creates long-lasting community changes by addressing the underlying causes of the most significant local issues. The United Way is a national network of some 1,300 local organizations working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income and health.

Those are the organization's primary areas of interest because they represent the building blocks for a good life — quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement and good health.

Local donations to this year's United Way fund-raising campaign will go the Impact Fund, which ensures that donations are filtered back to local organizations.

Phil Sparacella, executive director of the United Way of the Mon Valley, said there are three components to the Impact Fund: Kids Matter, Seniors Matter and Basic Needs Matter.

- Kids Matter benefits services that help prevent child abuse and neglect, and provide early education and after-school care.
- Seniors Matter is geared toward keeping older residents safe and independent.
- Basic Needs Matter focuses on helping agencies that assist families in need and working families.

Individual donors can choose to direct part or all of their donations to the Impact Fund. The money will then be allocated to the three sub-categories. Sparacella said about 75 percent of the money received last year went to the Impact Fund.

For more information about the United Way of the Mon Valley or to make a donation, call (724)489-8090.

MVH serves the Valley in many ways

Mon-Vale Health Resources, Inc., the Mon Valley's largest health system and parent company of Monongahela Valley Hospital, takes very seriously its responsibilities to serve its community in ways that transcend the traditional clinical realm of health care.

"Improvement is rather easy to explain in our profession," said Louis J. Panza Jr., president and CEO. "We are committed to advancing and enhancing quality health care services with new equipment and technology. Our physicians, nurses and ancillary staff are constantly learning and honing their skills to better serve our patients.

"As a place of healing, Monongahela Valley Hospital's vision is to become the hospital of choice for patients, physicians and staff by distinguishing itself as a leader in excellent customer service, profound clinical outcomes, cost-effective care and recruiting, developing and retaining the best people."

While noting that "health care is not recession proof," Panza credited the hospital's continuing Journey to Excellence program for five consecutive quarters as the No. 1 hospital in patient satisfaction (as measured by Press Ganey surveys) in Western Pennsylvania.

As of April 2009, MVH now ranks in the 97th percentile of all hospitals in the nation for patient satisfaction.

As a result of its stellar performance, MVH has been asked to be a presenter at Press Ganey's national conference, at which more than 1,500 hospitals will be represented.

In terms of community service, Panza said the health system takes pride in its partnerships, affiliations and active involvement with organizations and programs affecting people of all ages.

"We are involved not because we have to be, but rather because we want to be," he said. "We share the same priorities and accept the responsibilities of community service because it is important and imperative that we serve the health needs of everyone in our community in every way possible.

"It becomes increasingly difficult for independent community hospitals to stand alone. But we are firm in our convictions and commitment to being just that – a viable and vital independent community hospital maintaining our integrity with quality health care and unbridled service to our community."

Panza said everything MVHR does is "based on quality — quality care and services, quality staff and quality community service."

"Collectively, everyone in our health system — physicians, staff and leadership — realizes we have to understand the needs of our community and measure and improve our capacity and ability to meet those needs," he said. "We acknowledge that the residents of the communities we serve have specific health care needs and we must constantly strive to do whatever is possible to meet those needs. They should expect and they deserve no less."

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